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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on November 8, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

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Remarks in Louisville, Kentucky

November 1, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Thank you all very much for coming tonight. I'm here to talk about the American spirit, and I'm here to remind the good folks of this part of the State of Kentucky that if you're interested in good Government, if you're interested in sending somebody to Congress who will represent all the people of the district, if you want somebody who can do the job, send Anne Northup back to the United States Congress.

I love traveling America because it gives me a chance to see firsthand and to feel the fact that the American spirit is alive and well. That's the spirit that says, no matter what the cost, we'll defend our freedom. It's the spirit—the American spirit says to me that we'll serve something greater than ourselves here in this country. The American spirit means that we love freedom. And if you love freedom, you have a duty to participate in the democratic process.

I'm here to urge all the people of the great State of Kentucky to vote, Republican, Democrat, people who don't care about any kind of political party. You need to do your duty. But when you get in that poll, I've got a suggestion for you: Anne Northup is the right choice.

I wasn't Anne's first choice tonight. [*Laughter*] She wanted Laura. I saw on TV that Laura was campaigning with Elizabeth Dole. She got the long straw; you got the short straw. But she sends her love. She sends her best. She's as strong for Anne as I am.

I want to tell you how proud I am of Laura. When I married her, she was a public school librarian. [*Applause*] I didn't realize there were so many public school librarians here in Louisville.

Audience member. [*Inaudible*]

The President. That's good. When I said, "Would you marry me," her state of mind was this: She didn't like politics, and she didn't care for politicians. [*Laughter*] And now she's doing a fabulous job as our First Lady.

I appreciate Anne's family. I appreciate Woody and all of their kids. Heck, if they just get the kids to vote, it would be a landslide. [*Laughter*]

I'm proud to be up here as well with a fine Kentucky couple, starting with a United States Senator who has done a fabulous job for the people of Kentucky, and that's Mitch McConnell. Like me, he married well—so well I put Elaine in the Cabinet. [*Laughter*] She's doing a really good job on behalf of the American people. I'm proud of Elaine.

I'm also honored to be up here with another great Senator from Kentucky, Jim Bunning. We need to make sure Mitch goes back to the Senate. We need him there for a lot of reasons. Some of the reasons I'll talk about later, but one of the key reasons why Senators McConnell and Bunning are important to our future is because they know what I know: We've got a problem on our Federal judiciary. There's too many vacancies. And there's too many vacancies because the current leadership in the Senate has done a lousy job on letting my people have a fair hearing when I nominate them. They don't like the kind of judges I nominate. I put good, honest, honorable people who understand their job is to interpret the Constitution, not use the bench from which to legislate. We don't need any more legislators. We need good, honorable judges on the bench.

I appreciate so very much Ernie Fletcher. Congressman Ernie Fletcher is with us today—he's one of the fine Members of the United States Congress—and Ron Lewis of the United States Congress, from Kentucky as well. These are two solid Members, Members with whom I can work for the good of everybody.

Also on the stage today we've got Geoff Davis, who's a candidate for the United States Congress. And if you're living in Geoff's district, give him your vote and give him your word. And Mike Sodrel is here. [*Applause*] Sounds like old Mike's got something going. We want both these good men in the Congress. We've got a lot to do to work together.

I'm here to thank the grassroots activists as well. I want to thank you for what you have done. I want to thank you for what you're fixing to do over the next couple of days. You need to go to your coffee shops and your houses of worship and your community centers and tell the people they need to go and vote, and tell the people that we've got some fine candidates. Tell the people that Anne Northup is as good as it gets in the United States Congress. Urge them to vote, and don't be afraid to talk about good, discerning Democrats—to talk to good, discerning Democrats and wise independents. These people want good Government as well, just like we do. And the best person to represent good Government is Anne Northup.

I know Anne well. I know her well. I respect her a lot. I value her advice. I appreciate the way she works hard in Washington to change the tone of politics. People who know Anne well know what I'm about to say. She's got a big heart. She cares for those who suffer. She doesn't need a poll or a focus group to tell her what to think. She bases her decisions on a deep-seated philosophy. She's decency; she's great. She needs to be back in the Congress. She's an effective person. She can get things done.

She secured funding for the Ohio River bridges project. She worked hard to make sure transportation was effective in this part of the world. She worked closely with me on making sure that we could get a Faith-Based Initiative out of the United States Congress. Anne feels passionately about that because, as a Congresswoman, she has reached across the community divides to bring people together. She knows what I know, that there are people who hurt and people who suffer. And one of the ways to heal the broken heart is to unleash the great faith and compassion of the American people.

I've worked closely with Anne on issues like adoption. She and Woody are adoptive parents, which in my view is one of the greatest expressions of love. No, Anne Northup can get things done. She cares deeply about the citizens of this district. And she knows that we've got some hurdles to cross here in America, and I look forward to having her in Congress to work on—working to cross those hurdles.

One of the biggest problems we've got is our economy. It's just bumping along. It's not going like it should. There are too many people in America who want to work and cannot find a job. And so long as somebody is looking for work, that means we've got a problem. And I need people in the United States Congress who will join me in job creation.

But we understand the role of Government. It is not to create wealth; it's to create an environment in which the entrepreneurial spirit can flourish. It is to create an environment in which the small business can grow to be a big business. Anne and I understand that 70 percent of new jobs are created by small-business owners.

If you're worried about job creation like we are, then you must put forth policy that encourages small-business growth. Most small businesses pay taxes at the individual income tax level. Most small businesses are sole proprietorships or limited partnerships. So when you open up your tax forms and see the individual rates, you've got to think of the fact that most small businesses pay those rates. And therefore, the tax relief plan that we passed was the best antidote to a slowing economy.

If you're interested in creating jobs, you let small businesses as well as consumers keep more of their own money. You see, when people have more money in their pocket, they're more likely to demand a good or a service. And in the marketplace, when they demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax relief we plan came at—passed came at the right time, and we need people in the United States Congress to make the tax cuts permanent.

I look forward to working with Anne and other Members of the Congress and working with Mitch to see if we can't get us a terrorism insurance bill, to get construction programs started, projects started, and get the hardhats working. We want our good hardhats in America building those buildings and building those projects which are stalled because people can't find insurance because of the terrorist attacks. But we'd better get us a bill that rewards the hardhats, not the trial lawyers here in America.

And we're going to work together to increase jobs so people can find work. I'm optimistic about our future when it comes to the economy. We've got—interest rates are low; inflation is low; productivity is high. We're the best workers, best farmers, best ranchers, best entrepreneurs in the world. There's a lot going right, but we are not going to rest until people can find a job.

And we're not going to rest until every child gets educated in this country, either. I worked closely with Anne. Anne Northup was a solid backer, strong advocate of the no child should be left behind legislation. To give you a sense of her perspective, let me tell you what that bill says. It says every child can learn in America. Everybody can learn. And therefore, we must set high standards.

If you have low expectations and low standards, you're going to get lousy results. Anne understands that we must challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations, must raise the bar.

But at the same time, we've got to trust the people of Kentucky to chart the path for excellence for every child in Kentucky. We believe in local control of schools. Thanks to Anne's hard work and Mitch's and Jim's hard work and other Members of Congress' hard work, the great State of Kentucky is going to receive $650 million in Federal monies for schools this year. Those monies will be used to help disadvantaged children. Those monies will be applied to make sure every child can learn.

But for the first time in our history, we've asked the question, is the money being well spent? Show us whether or not the children can read and write and add and subtract. If you believe every child can learn, then it makes sense to ask that question. Are we teaching our children? And if we are, we'll praise the teachers. But if we find children trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change, we will demand something different, because no child should be left behind in the State of Kentucky.

I look forward to working with Anne to make sure our medical system works, to make sure that health care is available and affordable. We've got too many lawsuits here in America today, too many frivolous and junk lawsuits that are running up the cost of medicine and making it harder for our docs to practice medicine. We need medical liability reform, once and for all, so that medicine is affordable for the American consumers.

I look forward to working with Anne and the other Members of Congress up here to fulfill our promises to our seniors. We're going to make sure Social Security system works. And we're also going to make sure Medicare fulfills its promise. Medicine has changed. Medicare hasn't. Medicine is modern because of technologies and innovation. Medicare is stuck in the past. I'm going to work with Anne to make sure Medicare is modern, and that means prescription drug benefits for our seniors.

No, there's a lot we can do to work together on behalf of all of the citizens of Kentucky and all of the citizens of America. But the biggest challenge we have, our most important responsibility, is to protect the homeland from further attack. That's our biggest job, because there's still an enemy out there that lurks, an enemy out there which hates America because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We worship the fact that we have free elections. We love the fact we have a free press. We love everything about freedom, and we're not going to change.

And it's our fervent love of freedom, and the fact that we're not going to change, which really irritates the enemy. See, they don't like us. And there's something else that differentiates us between them, and that is, we value life. Everybody counts. Everybody is precious. Every life matters. And these people

are nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers who have hijacked a great religion and could care less about taking innocent life.

We've been warned. We've been warned. And now our most important job is to protect you. And there's a lot of good people doing this. We've got people at the Federal level and at the State level and the local level doing everything they can to disrupt and deny the enemy. I'm telling you, anytime we get any whisper, any hint, any idea that somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're acting. We're going to do everything in our power to prevent the enemy from hitting us again.

And that's why I went to the United States Congress and asked them to join with me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. There's over 100 agencies in Washington involved with protecting you. It seemed like, to me, it made sense to put them under one Department so that we could set clear priority, so that if need be, we could change cultures so that our Government was functioning in concert to do everything we could to protect the homeland.

And the House of Representatives passed a good bill, and I'm honored that Anne and the other Members of the Congress supported that good bill. But it's stuck in the Senate. It couldn't get out of the Senate, because the Senate wanted to take powers away from the President of the United States.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. And here's what they wanted to do. For 40 years, since John Kennedy was the President, Presidents have had the capacity, the ability to suspend collective bargaining rules in the name of national security. In other words, if there were certain rules which prevented the homeland security council department from doing its job, I couldn't suspend those rules. If the Senate had its way—not Senator McConnell or Senator Bunning but other Senators—if they had their way, I would have the capacity, the right to suspend certain rules at the Department of Agriculture but not at the Department of Homeland Security. I would have the flexibility necessary to do everything I could for the sake of national security at Agriculture, but not to protect you through the Department of Homeland Security.

I need the capacity to be able to move the right people at the right time to the right place to protect the American people. Mitch McConnell understands that, and so does Jim Bunning, and so does Anne Northup. They understand that.

They also understand what I'm about to tell you, that the best way to secure America, the best way to protect you, is to chase the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. It's not an easy task. It's not an easy task, because this is a different kind of army that we face, a different kind of enemy. In the old days—I see some guys who were probably involved with World War II or the Korean war. In the old days, if you knocked out a couple of tanks or knocked some airplanes out of the air or sunk a ship, you'd be able to determine whether or not you were making progress against the enemy. Those were the old days. Today, we're facing coldblooded killers who hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths, and there is no cave deep enough for America.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. It's important to see the world the way it is, not to see the way that we hope it is. It's important to be cold-eyed realists about the threats we face.

And we're making progress on this war against terror. We've hauled in over a couple thousand of them, and a couple thousand weren't quite as lucky. Slowly but surely, we're protecting the American people and defending our freedom by dismantling the terrorist network that came and unmercifully murdered American citizens. And so long as I'm the President of the United States, we're going to continue to hunt them down. We owe that to our children. We owe that to our children's children. History has called us into action, and this great Nation is going to stay steady and resolute and determined.

I asked the Congress to pass the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was President. And they did, and I want to thank the Members up here who voted with us on that bill. I did so for two reasons, two important reasons. One, anytime we send our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training,

and the best possible equipment. And secondly, we just sent a signal to the world, to friend and foe alike, we're in this deal for the long haul. It doesn't matter how long it takes. It doesn't matter how long it costs. The United States of America will go after those terrorists and bring them to justice.

No, it's important to be open-eyed about the threats we face. After all, oceans no longer protect us. See, that's what's important for Americans to understand, that after September the 11th, the stakes changed. See, prior to September the 11th, we used to think that, if there was a conflict or a threat somewhere else in the world, we could pick and choose whether or not we wanted to deal with it, because oceans protected us. The homeland was secure by geography.

We learned a tough lesson on September the 11th, which means that, as we see threats, we must be prepared to deal with them. And I see a significant threat to the security of the United States in Iraq.

Saddam Hussein is a man who told the world he would not have weapons of mass destruction, but he does. He not only has them; he's used them. He has used them against his neighbors, and incredibly enough, he's used them against his own people. This is a man who was close to having a nuclear weapon a decade ago. No telling how close he is now.

I viewed him as a threat, not only to the American people, because he could become an arsenal to one of these shadow terrorist networks. He could use them as surrogates and not leave any fingerprints behind.

No, he's a threat. He's not only a threat to us. He's a threat to our close friends in the Middle East. Saddam Hussein is a man who has defied the United Nations not once, not twice, not 3 times, but 16 times they passed resolutions. So I went to that august body, and I said, "The time has come for you to show the world whether or not you've got the capacity to keep the peace, to defend freedom. The time has come for you to show whether or not your resolutions mean anything."

And I sent the same message to Saddam Hussein. "You said you would disarm. Disarm. For the sake of peace, disarm."

I took the debate to the United States Congress and, thanks to the Members on this stage and many others, the United States now speaks with one voice. And here it is: Either the United Nations will do its job, either the United Nations will show it is not the League of Nations, but a body with the capacity to keep the peace, and Saddam Hussein will disarm, or for the sake of peace, for the sake of freedom, the United States will lead a mighty coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. I can't imagine what was going through the mind of the enemy when they hit us. They must have thought the national religion of the United States was materialism, that we were so selfish, so self-absorbed, so shallow, that after September the 11th, 2001, we'd take a step back and maybe file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] That's probably what they thought. But they found out they are dealing with a different bunch, that we love our freedom, that we care deeply about our future, that we love peace.

The evil done to America has given this great nation to show the world that out of evil can come great good. I believe this. I believe that if we stay the course, if we're strong, if we fight terror, if we lead a coalition of freedom-loving countries, we can achieve peace.

I believe we can achieve peace if we remember that freedom is not bestowed on the world by the United States, but freedom is God-given for everybody. I believe that if we're strong and resolute, with a clear vision, that we see reality the way it is, that we can achieve peace not only for America, but because we value all life—everybody is precious—that we can achieve peace in parts of the world who have quit on peace. I believe we can achieve peace in the Middle East. I believe we can achieve peace in South Asia.

No, out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good, not only abroad but incredible good here at home. See, I believe that the evildoers renew the American spirit, that sense of serving something greater than yourself in life. Government can help. We'll work—Members of Congress will work with the administration

to pass laws that will help people help themselves and improve lives. But you've got to remember that while Government can pass out money, it can't put hope in people's hearts. It can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives.

And at the same time, we've got to remember, amongst all the plenty here in America, there are people who hurt. There's loneliness and addiction and despair. And so long as any of us hurts, we all hurt. And the best way to solve many of the seemingly intractable problems here in America is for a fellow American to put their arm around somebody who's lonely, and somebody who suffers, and say, "I love you. What can I do to help you?"

No, the true strength of America lies in the hearts and the souls of our fellow citizens. All across this country there are fine and decent people who are helping America change, one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time. And it's happening.

They woke the great compassion of America when they attacked us. Perhaps the spirit is best reflected in small ways and large ways—small ways like Ray Probus, who I met. He was at the airport today. He works with the Jefferson County police department's Volunteers in Police Service program. That's one way people can help. I'm sure there's mentors here. I know there are people who worry about feeding the hungry, who worry about the homeless and do something about it. I know there's people involved in Boy Scouts and Girl Scout troops that are sending values to our children. I know there are people involved in schools here to make sure every child can learn. All of us can help make America a hopeful place.

Perhaps the biggest lesson of all of what I'm talking about, that great spirit of America, took place on Flight 93 that fateful day. We had people flying across the country. They heard the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon to kill Americans. They said goodbye to their loved ones. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." And they took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves. To me, that epitomized the greatest of the American spirit, which is alive and well in America.

No, the enemy hit us—the enemy hit us. They didn't know who they were hitting. Out of the evil done to America is going to come peace. And out of the evil done to America is going to come a more hopeful tomorrow. I predict this. I know it's going to happen, because America is the greatest nation, full of the finest, most compassionate people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you all for coming. May God bless. May God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:51 p.m. at the Kentucky International Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Representative Anne Northup and her husband, Robert Wood "Woody" Northup; senatorial candidate Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina; Geoff Davis, candidate for Kentucky's Fourth Congressional District; Mike Sodrel, candidate for Indiana's Ninth Congressional District; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7619—National Adoption Month, 2002

November 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Every year, thousands of American families are blessed by adoption. Whether through domestic or international adoption or through the adoption of children from foster care, the love of compassionate families embraces children of all ages and from every background. During National Adoption Month, we recognize the heartfelt commitment of these good citizens, and we renew our pledge to make adoption a more accessible and positive path for American families.

Children thrive in loving families where they are nurtured, comforted, and protected. We are making important progress in placing children in foster care with adoptive families; and the overall number of children being adopted continues to rise. In the past 5 years, adoptions have increased dramatically; and thus far in 2002, tens of thousands of children have already been adopted.

Twenty-three States and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico received adoption incentive awards in FY 2001 for increasing the number of children they placed from foster

care into permanent adoptive homes. These recipients have reinvested their bonuses to help improve their respective adoption and child welfare programs. Americans also continue to welcome children from other countries into their homes through international adoptions. Last year, families in the United States adopted over 19,000 children from around the world.

Despite the progress we have made in increasing our adoption rate, we still have much work to do. More than 130,000 children, ranging from toddlers to teenagers, still remain in foster care awaiting adoption. While foster parents offer temporary essential care, the children for whom they care need the stability of a permanent family. It is often challenging to find families for older children and those children who have special needs. Yet they deserve a future with a nurturing family.

To help States promote adoption and support families who adopt, I signed a tax relief bill last year that permanently eases the financial burden on families that adopt children. And in January 2002, I signed into law a bill to extend and expand the Promoting Safe and Stable Families Program. Through this legislation, we are strengthening families by promoting adoption, offering post-adoptive services to families that adopt, and providing education and training vouchers to older adopted children and foster youth.

In July 2002, my Administration launched the AdoptUSKids national campaign to increase awareness about adoption and its role in helping all children reach their full potential. We have also created the first Federal adoption photo-listing web site devoted to children awaiting adoption and families who adopt, www.AdoptUSKids.org. During its first year, the web site will feature pictures and profiles of more than 6,500 children awaiting adoption, as well as a database of approved adoptive families. This unique web site will help to connect children from across the country with loving adoptive families, and it will also serve as a great resource for all adoptive families.

On November 23, dozens of communities will gather in courtrooms across the country to celebrate National Adoption Day. On this momentous day, thousands of adoptions will be finalized and celebrated. These efforts demonstrate our Nation's dedication to ensuring that every child can thrive in a secure, loving, and stable home.

Through adoption, Americans can forever change not only a child's life but also their own. By providing children in need with the opportunity to grow and succeed through adoption, we can help them become confident, compassionate, and successful members of society.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2002 as National Adoption Month. I call on all Americans to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities to honor adoptive families, and to participate in efforts to find permanent homes for waiting children.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 5, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 6. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Proclamation 7620—National American Indian Heritage Month, 2002

November 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During American Indian Heritage Month, we celebrate the rich cultural traditions and proud ancestry of American Indians and Alaska Natives, and we recognize the vital contributions these groups have made to the strength and diversity of our society.

American Indians and Alaska Natives have played a central role in our history. In 1805 and 1806, Sakajawea, a Shoshone Indian woman, helped guide Lewis and Clark on their historic expedition to explore the uncharted West. This remarkable journey, known as the "Voyage of Discovery," would not have been possible without her efforts, and today she remains a proud symbol of American Indian courage and strength.

We are also grateful to the Navajo Codetalkers for their service during World War II. Participating in every assault the U.S. Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942–1945, the Navajo Codetalkers relayed secret messages that helped our Nation and the allies secure victory. The Congress recognized these heroes by authorizing the President to award them Congressional Gold Medals, which I was honored to present last year. These examples of our true American spirit reflect our shared history and serve as reminders of the unique heritage of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Upon its completion on the National Mall, the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian will help educate all Americans about the lives, contributions, and culture of our Native peoples.

Education is essential to the future success of tribal communities. We will work together to ensure that our Indian education programs offer high-quality instruction and job training that contribute to the vitality of our Native American communities. We will also work to maintain the legacy of American Indians and Alaska Natives by preserving irreplaceable languages and cultural traditions.

To enhance our efforts to help Indian nations be self-governing, self-supporting, and self-reliant, my Administration will continue to honor tribal sovereignty by working on a government-to-government basis with American Indians and Alaska Natives. We will honor the rights of Indian tribes and work to protect and enhance tribal resources.

My Administration is working to increase employment and expand economic opportunities for all Native Americans. Several Federal agencies recently participated in the National Summit on Emerging Tribal Economies to help us accomplish this goal. In order to build upon this effort, my Administration will work to promote cooperation and coordination among Federal agencies for the purpose of fostering greater economic development of tribal communities. By working together on important economic initiatives, we will strengthen America by building a future of hope and promise for all Native Americans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2002 as National American Indian Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to commemorate this month with appropriate programs and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:46 a.m., November 5, 2002]

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Proclamation 7621—National Hospice Month, 2002

November 1, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Hospice organizations provide people who are near the end of their lives with family-centered, quality care, that emphasizes compassion, independence, respect, and dignity. During National Hospice Month, our Nation pays tribute to hospice care and the persons and organizations involved with it, by recognizing and honoring its value and importance for people who are dying, for their families and friends, and for our communities.

Hospice has emerged as a successful model of care that helps terminally ill individuals achieve practical, physical, psychological, and spiritual goals. According to the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization (NHPCO), in 2001, an estimated 3,200 operating hospice programs in the United States admitted about 775,000 patients. Hospice care relies upon a team of committed physicians, nurses, medical social workers, therapists, counselors, and volunteers. This team provides medical services that are designed to improve the comfort of the patient, manage symptoms, provide proper nutrition, and deal with other difficulties such as emotional distress and grief. Hospice care also provides important emotional and spiritual support to families and friends as they cope with their impending loss.

While we have made great progress in encouraging hospice care, much work remains to be done to increase awareness of hospice and its benefits. The NHPCO reports that in 2000, 2.4 million people in our Nation died. It is estimated that one in four used hospice care and services. Also, many people at the end of life are referred to hospice only a few days before death. By strengthening and expanding hospice programs and working to promote, where appropriate, their services as a positive alternative for terminally ill patients, we can make a difference in the lives of countless Americans.

As we observe National Hospice Month, we applaud hospice organizations, health professionals, and other caregivers for their dedication to ensuring respect and quality of life for all. We also reaffirm our commitment as a Nation to honoring the dignity of every person and to promoting compassion and concern for our fellow citizens.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 2002 as National Hospice Month. I encourage Americans to increase their awareness of the importance and availability of hospice service and to observe this month with appropriate activities and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:46 a.m., November 5, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 6. This item was not received in time for publication in the appropriate issue.

Remarks in Blountville, Tennessee

November 2, 2002

Thank you all. Thanks for coming. I'm honored to be here in East Tennessee. I've got a fond spot in my heart for Tennessee, if you know what I mean. I've got a good feeling about the people in this State, and I want to thank you for coming this morning. I'm—your Congressman, Bill Jenkins, is doing a fine job, by the way. He said, "You know, it's time to quit sermonizing, and it's time to pass the plate." [*Laughter*] I think what he meant was, "It's close to voting time, and it's time for you all to go out and vote for the next Governor of Tennessee, Van Hilleary."

See, we have a duty in this country to support our freedoms. And one of the ways we support freedom is to vote. We have an obligation as American citizens to vote. So as we're approaching election day, I'm traveling the country, reminding Republicans and Democrats and people who don't give a hoot about politics to do their duty and go to the polls. But I've got some suggestions once they get in the box. [*Laughter*]

For the good of Tennessee, for the good of the taxpayers of Tennessee, for the good of the schoolchildren in Tennessee, vote Van Hilleary as your Governor. And for the sake of making sure the United States Senate and its important seat stays in the hands of a good, honest, capable Senator, vote for Lamar Alexander.

I appreciate Meredith Hilleary working so hard with her husband. She's going to be a great first lady on behalf of the people of

Tennessee. I'm pretty good about understanding great First Ladies. The American people are beginning to see why I asked Laura to marry me. She's calm and steady under fire. She's got great, great vision about making sure every child gets educated. She's got a wonderful heart. A lot of people are wondering why she said yes. [*Laughter*] But she sends her best to the Hillearys and the Alexanders and the good people of Tennessee. She's doing a fabulous job as our First Lady, and I'm really proud of her.

I'm proud to be up here with two fine United States Senators. First, we're going to miss Fred Thompson. He's been a good friend, solid Senator. But we're not going to miss him nearly half enough when—half as much when Lamar Alexander takes his place. I know you join me in sending our best to Fred and expressing our deep appreciation for his great service to the country.

And you sent another good one up there, too, and that's Frist. He's a good man, a good, solid citizen. Both of these men are allies. Both of them are doing a great job for all the people of Tennessee. Bill Jenkins is doing a great job for this congressional district, too. He's a reliable voice who cares deeply about the people of East Tennessee. You ought to be proud of his service to you as well.

I want to thank all the grassroots activists who are here. I want to thank you for what you have done, and I want to thank you for what you're going to do, what you're going to do for candidates such as Janice Bowling, who's going to get elected in the congressional district right next door to here. I appreciate Janice. She's a strong voice. She's a solid soul. She'll make a great Congresswoman.

I also want to thank my friend Darrell Waltrip. There he is. [*Laughter*] I've known him for quite a while. He's looking younger, and I'm looking older. [*Laughter*] He's asking me whether or not he can drive the Presidential limousine. [*Laughter*] No. [*Laughter*] He's a good, solid man. One of the reasons Hilleary is going to win is because he's going to win the NASCAR vote.

I also appreciate Law and Grace and the Singing Sheriffs group for being here. I'm sorry I didn't get here in time to hear you. Just leave your CD at the door. [*Laughter*]

But I really want to thank you all and remind you that not only do you have a duty to vote, but if you care about the quality of government in Nashville and in Washington, turn out to vote. Go to your houses of worship. Go to your coffee shops. When you get there Monday morning, instead of sitting around worrying about the weather, worry about who the next Governor is going to be. Worry about who the next Senator is going to be. Talk it up with people who may not pay attention to the politics as much as we do. And don't be afraid to talk up the story of Lamar and Van to Democrats. There's some discerning Democrats out there. They want good government, just like we do. They don't want higher taxes, just like we do. Find those independents that are open-minded and convince them that when you've got good ones, like Van and Lamar, we have a duty in America to support these good people.

We're going to win this election, come Tuesday, because of good, hard-working folks such as yourself, and I'm here to thank you for what you're going to do.

No, there's some reasons—you know, old Van, he's not what we call a show horse; he's a work horse. He can get the job done. He's a plain-spoken fellow. The good thing about him is, he doesn't need a poll or a focus group to tell him what to think. He's well grounded in East Tennessee. He has those values of faith and family, the kind of man you can count on. He's not going to be swayed by the special interests. He's going to do what he thinks is right for all the people of Tennessee. And that's important.

We share a vision about the children of Tennessee too. It says that every child can learn. You've got to have you a Governor who believes every child can learn, somebody who's willing to set high standards and high expectations, somebody who is willing to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. See, when you have you a Governor who believes in not setting high standards, you're going to get lousy results. Van Hilleary worked with me and Members of the United States Congress to make sure that the Federal bill we passed did two things—provided plenty of money for Tennessee. There's $760 million in Federal education money coming

your way, thanks to the hard work of your Senators and Van Hilleary.

But that bill that he worked on said two other things: One, we trust the people of Tennessee to chart the path for excellence for every child. We believe in local control of schools, and that's the way he'll be as your Governor. And secondly, in return for the money spent, we expect results, don't we. You see, we believe every child can learn. Therefore, we expect every child to learn. And therefore, we're going to use accountability to make sure your money is being spent wisely. We use accountability to praise those schools that are meeting expectations, so we can thank our teachers. We will use accountability, though, to make sure that no child, not one single child, gets trapped in a school which will not teach and will not change. Van Hilleary will work with us to make sure no child is left behind in the State of Tennessee.

Our economy is bumping along. It's not doing as well as it should. After all, we're coming out of a recession; then the enemy hit us. That created a problem which we're overcoming. Then we had another problem; some of our citizens thought they could fudge the numbers, thought it's okay, if they're in positions of responsibility, to not tell the truth. I want to thank the Senators. I want to thank Van Hilleary. I want to thank Bill Jenkins for joining me to pass the most comprehensive corporate reform law since Franklin Roosevelt was the President. See, our message today—my message today is, those who aren't responsible to shareholder and employee, no easy money in America, just hard time.

I want to thank these Members for understanding that confidence in our economy depends upon us holding people to account if they're not honest with the people. That's the kind of leadership you need in Nashville, and that's the kind of leadership you've got in Washington.

But we need to do more work on our economy. We need to understand, if somebody is looking for work and they can't find a job, we've got a problem. Anybody is looking for work and wants to put food on the table, and they can't find work, we need to make sure we've got people in the Federal office and the State office who understand job creation. The role of Government is not to create wealth. The role of Government is to create an environment in which the small-business person can grow to be a big-business person.

That's why it's important you have somebody in Nashville who understands the role of the small-business owner. Seventy percent of new jobs in America are created by small businesses, the entrepreneurs. And you better get you somebody as the Governor who understands that, who understands policy ought to be to encourage the growth of small business. And one way to do that is to let small-business owners and taxpayers keep more of your own money.

That tax relief bill we passed is going to give Tennessee people $27 billion over the next 10 years. That's your money to begin with, by the way. That's not the Government's money. It's your money. And when you've got it in your pocket, you're going to demand a good or a service. If you demand a good or a service, somebody is going to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work.

You see, if you listen to that other bunch, they're going to say we need to revisit the tax relief. That's Washington, DC, code for, "We're going to get back in your pocket." [*Laughter*] Tax relief was good for our economy. It's going to be good for our economy. It's going to be good for the working people, and we need to make tax relief permanent.

No, I look forward to working with Van to do a lot of things to help Tennessee—make sure that welfare system works. Part of the welfare reform that worked and something that needs to go forward is to have a Governor work with the Congress to help people find work. See, when you work, you find dignity. If you want to help people get off welfare, if you want to help them help themselves, you help them have the skills necessary to work. Work needs to be the central core of any good welfare policy.

And Van Hilleary understands that. No, when you put Van Hilleary in office, you're going to be putting a good man in office, a man who's going to work hard to represent all the people of Tennessee, a man who will make you proud as Governor, a man with

whom I can work, and a man who will represent that office, that high office, with class and dignity. I'm here to urge the good people of East Tennessee to turn out to vote next Tuesday and put Van Hilleary in as Governor of the great State.

And I need Lamar up there in Washington too, and so do you. He's got a great record for Tennessee. People know that he is what we call a class act. When given the responsibilities, he handled his business well. More importantly, he cares deeply about the all the citizens of this State. Lamar is going to make a great United States Senator. And there's a lot of things we can work together on, whether it be education—of course, he's an expert on that subject—or whether it would be making sure our economy grows. I know we'll have a strong ally, and the people will have a strong ally in Lamar Alexander.

Oh, there's some things we need to work on, like making sure the health care system works. We need his vote up there to make sure that you've got affordable and accessible health care. We need his vote up there to make sure the Medicare system works. There are too many lawsuits these days which are driving up the cost of medicine and driving doctors out of the practice of medicine. We want the system to work. We want our people to have access to the courts, of course, but these frivolous and junk lawsuits are running these docs out of business, running up your price of medicine. We need to have medical liability reform at the Federal level, and Lamar Alexander will vote that way.

And we've got to make sure Medicare works. Medicine is becoming modern. Technology is changing medicine. New discoveries have changed medicine. But Medicare isn't modern. It's stuck in the past. Just ask our seniors. We need Lamar Alexander in the United States Senate to work to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drug benefits for our senior citizens.

And I need him up there, along with Senator Frist, to make sure that our judiciary works properly. We can't get our judges through the United States Senate. There is a vacancy problem in our Federal courts. Too many of our benches have got vacancies, which means you can't get access to the courts. They're playing politics with the judges in Washington, DC. They don't like the fact that I'm naming good, honorable, decent people who will not use the bench from which to legislate but from which to interpret the United States Constitution.

No, there's a lot of issues we can work on to make America better for everybody. The biggest issue we'll work together on is to secure our homeland, prevent the American people from coming under attack again by a bunch of coldblooded killers. These people hate us because of what we love. And we love freedom, and we're not going to change.

I asked Congress to join me in a creation of a Department of Homeland Security. I did so because I want all the agencies involved with protecting you to be under—to have as their priority protection of the American people, and if need be, change cultures so people get it in their head that there's still an enemy out there which lurks around, so we can coordinate better. The House of Representatives, thanks to Van and Jenkins, supported me on a good bill. The bill is stuck in the Senate. This bill is stuck in the Senate, in spite of the good efforts of Fred Thompson and Bill Frist. And the reason it is was because the Senate wants me to give up a power that Presidents since John Kennedy has had, which is the capacity to suspend certain work rules, certain collective bargaining rules, in the name of national security.

I won't accept a lousy bill out of the Senate. I need a bill to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect the American people. Under some Senators' vision, I would have the capacity to make national security decisions in Agriculture Department but not in the Department of Homeland Security. That don't make any sense to me, and I know it doesn't make any sense to you. We need Lamar Alexander, and we need to change the United States Senate.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to chase the killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice, what America is going to do. We've got them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run. And one of the reasons we've got them on the run is, we've got a fantastic military.

I signed a good defense bill, thanks to the Senators and thanks to Van and Bill Jenkins,

a good defense bill that pays our people, equips our people, and trains our people the way you want them. We've got to get them the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. We owe that to the loved ones. We owe that to our troops. But we're also sending a clear signal to friend and foe that we're in this deal for the long haul. We love freedom. It doesn't matter how long it takes to defend America and to protect our freedoms; we're going after them, one at a time.

And we're making progress. Sometimes you'll read about it, and sometimes you won't. Sometimes you'll see the fact that somebody got hauled in, and sometimes it's just not going to make it on to your radar screen. But make no mistake about it, there's no cave deep enough, no corner of the world dark enough to prevent the long arm of justice from the United States to reach them around the world.

And the reason I feel so strong about it is that I recognize we're living in a different world today than we were last—prior to September the 11th. It's a different world because no longer can we be content with the fact that two oceans protect us from danger. It used to be that we don't have to worry about some potential threat overseas because oceans protected us. It used to be we could pick or choose whether or not we wanted to be involved. But at home we were confident we were okay because of oceans, because of our geography. And that changed on that fateful day. Therefore, it's very important for you to elect people to office who are clear-eyed realists, people who see the world the way it is, not the way we would hope it to be.

And that's the reason why I started the debate in our Congress and amongst the American people, in fact, in the world community, about the threat to America and threat to our friends and allies from Mr. Saddam Hussein. He's a dangerous man. He told the world he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction—11 years ago he said that. He's got them. We found out a while ago that he was close to having a nuclear weapon. We dismantled that when he used to let inspectors in. We don't know where he stands today, but we know what's in his mind. We know the implications of him having a nuclear weapon.

We know that this is a man who has chemical weapons, and we know he's used them. See, he's used them. He hasn't stockpiled them. He's used them in his neighborhood, and he's used them on his own people. We know he can't stand America. We know he can't stand some of our closest friends. We know that he has had contacts with terrorist networks like Al Qaida. And we know, clearly, that one of the dangers we face is him serving as a training ground and an arsenal for one of these shadowy terrorist networks, which could come home, could come home here. And so he's a danger.

I went to the United Nations because I want that body to be effective to help us keep the peace. I said to the United Nations, "This man has defied you 16 times. How long is it going to take for you to show some backbone so we can work together to keep the peace? You have a choice to be the United Nations, which is an effective body to keep the peace, or the League of Nations. That's your choice to make."

And Saddam Hussein has a choice. He can disarm like he said. He can get rid of his weapons of mass destruction. But if the United Nations won't act and if Saddam Hussein won't disarm, this country, in the name of peace and in the name of freedom, will lead a coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein.

I say that as a man who longs for peace. I say that as a man who knows the stakes. I say that as a man who's not going to forget September the 11th, 2001, or the attack on a French vessel recently or the attack in Bali, Indonesia. I say this as a man who is briefed on a daily basis about the threats we face in America. I say this as a man who is absolutely confident that out of the evil done to America can come some good, because I understand the nature of this country. I believe if we remain the course and stay strong and diligent and focused and remember that freedom is not America's gift to the world, it is God's gift to the world, that we can achieve peace, that we can have a peaceful world.

I believe out of the evil done to America, we can achieve peace if we're strong and diligent and focused, not only here at home

but—because we value each life; everybody counts—in parts of the world which have quit on peace. I believe peace is possible if we're tough and strong in the Middle East. I believe peace is possible in South Asia. And I know at home, out of the evil done to America can come a more compassionate and better country.

See, Government can help, and we will. We'll all work on laws to make things better. But what Government cannot do is put love in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. And amongst our plenty we've got to remember there are some who hurt, some who are lonely, some who are addicted, some who are wondering whether the American Dream is meant for them. I'm optimistic that out of the evil done to this country can come a better day where everybody understands the great promise of this country, because I know the strength of America, and the strength of America is in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens. If you want to fight evil, if you want to be a patriot, love a neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourselves.

Today I met Kathy Henderson. She's an active volunteer at Central Heights Elementary School. She decided she wanted to be part of the army of compassion; she wanted to make a difference in somebody's life. So she's helping young children learn to read. There's all kinds of ways where we can change America for the better, whether it be Boy Scouts or Girl Scouts or Boys and Girls Clubs or mentoring like Kathy. She asked me to say she needs volunteers, by the way, on the Read Along With Me program. You can do it by just telling somebody you love them, a shut-in, that you love them. You can help feed the hungry; you can house the homeless. There's all kinds of ways we can help.

No, the enemy had no idea who they were hitting. Oh, they probably thought we'd file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They didn't realize America like we know. The spirit of America is alive and well. It's the spirit which says, when it comes to the defense of our country, we'll be plenty tough. But the spirit also says that a patriot is somebody who is willing to serve something greater than themselves. A patriot is willing to help somebody who hurts.

No, I boldly predict to you that out of the evil done to America is going to come a more peaceful world. And out of the evil done to America will become a more hopeful America, because this is the greatest country, full of the finest people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming today. May God bless, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:50 a.m. at the Tri-Cities Regional TN/VA Airport. In his remarks, he referred to gubernatorial candidate Van Hilleary and his wife, Meredith; senatorial candidate Lamar Alexander; Janice Bowling, candidate for Tennessee's Fourth Congressional District; NASCAR driver Darrell Waltrip; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

The President's Radio Address

November 2, 2002

Good morning. The Federal courts play a central role in American justice, protecting the innocent, punishing the guilty, and upholding the rule of law. Yet, our Federal courts today are in crisis. The judicial confirmation process does not work as it should. Nominees are too often mistreated. Votes are delayed. Hearings are denied, and dozens of Federal judgeships sit empty, endangering the quality of justice in America.

Since coming into office, I have sent to the Senate 32 nominees for the Federal courts of appeals. These nominees are men and women with experience, intelligence, character, and bipartisan home-State support. They represent the mainstream of American law and American values. Yet the Senate has confirmed only 14 of these 32 nominees. As of this week, 15 of my appeals court nominees will have been forced to wait over a year for a hearing, which is more than under the previous nine Presidents combined.

There is no good reason why any nominee should endure a year, a year and a half, or more without the courtesy of an up-or-down floor vote. Whatever the explanation, we clearly have a poisoned atmosphere in which well-qualified nominees are neither voted up nor voted down; they're just left in limbo. If this situation persists and judicial vacancies

go unfulfilled, the Federal courts will be unable to act in a timely manner to enforce the criminal laws, the environmental laws, and the civil right laws that affect the lives of every American.

The judicial crisis is the result of a broken system, and we have a duty to repair it. I want to work with the Senate to fashion a new approach to filling Federal court vacancies, a bipartisan approach that would apply now and in the future. This week, I have offered four proposals to break the logjam in Washington and bring the Federal courts to full strength.

First, I call on Federal judges to notify the President of their intention to retire at least a year in advance, whenever possible. Because the nomination and confirmation of a Federal judge is a lengthy process, judges who retire without advance notice can unintentionally create a judicial vacancy for many months.

Second, I propose that Presidents submit a nomination to the Senate within 180 days of receiving notice of a Federal court vacancy or intended retirement. This will continue but speed up the process of obtaining recommendations and evaluations from home-State Senators and others, while leaving ample time for Presidents to choose nominees of the highest quality.

Third, I called on the Senate Judiciary Committee to commit to holding a hearing within 90 days of receiving a nomination. A firm deadline is the best way to ensure that judicial nominees are promptly considered. And 90 days is more than enough time for the committee to conduct necessary research before holding a hearing, as Democrat Senators have recognized in the past.

Finally, I called on the full Senate to commit to an up-or-down floor vote on each nominee no later than 180 days after the nomination is submitted. This is a very generous period of time that will allow all Senators to evaluate nominees and have their votes counted.

My proposals are fair to all parties and would apply regardless of who is President or which party controls the Senate.

The current state of affairs is not merely another round of political wrangling. It is a disturbing failure to meet a responsibility under the Constitution, and it is harming the administration of justice in America. Our country deserves better. The process can work better, and we can make it better. The Constitution has given us a shared duty, and we must meet that duty together.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 3:52 p.m. on November 1 at the Seelbach Hilton Hotel in Louisville, KY, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 2. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 1 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks in Atlanta, Georgia

November 2, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all. Glad I came. So you're probably wondering what Sonny—I mean, what Saxby said. He said, "Keep it short. The Bulldogs are playing."

Really what he was saying is, "It's time to quit the sermons and start passing the plate." That means it's time to turn out the vote. I'm here in the great State of Georgia because I want all the citizens of this State to understand that we have a responsibility, as Americans in a land of freedom, to vote. See, we have a responsibility. If you believe in democracy, if you love freedom, then you have a responsibility to go to the polls next Tuesday. And I'm not talking about just a handful of Georgia citizens, I mean everybody. Republicans and Democrats and people who could care less about political parties need to do their duty.

But when you get inside that box, I've got some suggestions: For the good of Georgia and for the good of the country, Saxby Chambliss needs to be the U.S. Senator. For the good of the 11th, Phil Gingrey needs to be the U.S. Congressman. And for the good of the schoolchildren of Georgia and the taxpayers of Georgia, Sonny Perdue ought to be the next Governor.

I appreciate Sonny, I appreciate him being straightforward, down to earth, tells it like

it is. That's why he's going to be a fine Governor. I appreciate the fact that he set education as a priority. That's why he's going to be a fine Governor. I appreciate the fact that he has actually met a payroll before. [*Laughter*] That's why he's going to be a fine Governor.

No, I appreciate Sonny being here. And I appreciate the members of the mighty Georgia congressional delegation for being here as well, Mac Collins and Johnny Isakson and John Linder and Bob Barr. I appreciate their friendship, and I appreciate their service to our country.

I want to thank all the candidates who are here. I want to thank the grassroots activists who have come. And I want to thank you for accepting the fact that you drew the short straw today. Laura is in another State. [*Laughter*]

Audience members. [*Inaudible*]

The President. I understand. Yes, she was here yesterday; he's right. You got stuck with me. But I can't tell you how proud I am of her. She is a big backer of Saxby and Sonny, everybody else running here in Georgia. She understands good government. How you get good government is you put good people in place. She sends her best. She sends her love. And I'm telling you, she's doing a great job as the First Lady of America.

I want to thank the grassroots activists who have worked so hard in the past for what you're about to do. Today and tomorrow and Monday and Tuesday, you need to do everything you can to turn out the vote. You need to go to your coffee shops and tell people they've got to vote and talk up these good candidates. You need to go to your houses of worship, remind people they have an obligation to vote.

And don't be afraid of taking this message to discerning Democrats. They want good government. They want the best candidates. And when they hear of the stories of these three candidates up there, they're going to support them. And don't be afraid of taking your message to independents. Take the message, work hard, turn out the vote, and when you do, we'll realize victory on November the 5th.

And there are reasons why, and there are important reasons why these good candidates need to win. We've got some hurdles to cross here in America. We've got some big challenges ahead of us. One of the biggest challenges we have is the fact that our economy is just kind of bumping along. It's not as strong as it should be. There are people looking for work, and they can't find a job, which means we've got a problem. People want to put food on the table, and they're unable to find work, which means we've got to have people in the Senate and in the United States Congress who understand the role of Government is not to create wealth but to create an environment in which the small business can grow to be a big business.

Here's the page of the textbook we read from—the economics textbook, that is. We strongly believe that if you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody in Georgia and around America is more likely to find work. The best way to make sure people can find work is to let people keep more of their own money. And the best way to do that is to make the tax cuts permanent.

The thing I like about Saxby and about Phil is they understand up in Washington we're not spending the Government's money. We're not giving you back the Government's money. It's the people's money.

No, there are some things we can do to work together to make the job base increase. We need to have us a terrorism insurance bill. That bill says that terrorists attack, we understand, we need the Government to underwrite insurance so that big construction projects can get going forward, so our hardhats can get back to work, so those hardworking Americans all across the country are able to put food on the table. I look forward to working with them and the Congress to get a good bill out, one by the way that rewards the hardhats and not America's trial lawyers.

So long as this economy is bumping along and so long as people can't find work, you've just got to know we're going to be doing everything we can to create jobs. And I need people up in the United States Congress who

will work with me to do just that. And the two best people to do just that is Saxby Chambliss for the Senate and Phil Gingrey for the United States House of Representatives.

We need people up there—we can work together to make sure our education system is strong. I want to thank Saxby for his strong support, unwavering support for an education bill which is going to really help the schoolchildren of the State of Georgia. He, along with the other Members up here on the stage, worked with me to get $1.2 billion of Federal money for the schools of Georgia. That's a good sum of money for the people of Georgia.

But for the first time, we've got a new frame of mind when it comes to children, a frame of mind which shows that Saxby is an optimistic person about our future. See, it says, every child can learn. That's what we believe. Every child can learn. We believe in high standards and high expectations. We believe strongly in challenging what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. We understand if you lower the bar, you're going to get lousy results.

In that bill we also understand that the people who care more about the children in Georgia are Georgian citizens, not bureaucrats in Washington, DC, so we passed power out of Washington. We believe in local control of schools.

But also in this bill, we finally started asking the question, when we spend that $1.2 billion here, are we getting our money's worth? If you believe every child can learn, then you want to know if every child is learning. If you believe every child can read, then you want to know. And that's why for the first time in our Nation's history, we're seeing a return for this money: "Why don't you show us. Show us whether or not the children are learning to read and write and add and subtract." And when we see they are, I promise you, we'll praise the teachers. And for those of you who are teachers out there, thank you for being involved in such a noble, important profession.

But it's also important to understand that if things aren't working, when we find children trapped in schools which won't teach and won't change, it's important to have people elected who are willing to challenge the status quo. No child, not one single child, should be left behind in the State of Georgia. I appreciate Saxby's strong support for the education bill and his clear vision for how to improve education for every child, not just a few but for every single child who lives in the great State of Georgia.

I also look forward to working with Saxby and Phil on the health issue. We've got a problem in health. One of the problems is, there's too many junk lawsuits, too many frivolous lawsuits which make it hard for people to have access to the courts. If you've got junk lawsuits clogging up the courts, you can't get access to the courts. But as importantly, these frivolous lawsuits are running up the cost of medicine, and they're driving doctors out of the practice of medicine, which makes it harder for people to be able to be able to find a professional help they need. For the sake of good health care, for the sake of affordable and accessible health care, we need medical liability reform at the Federal level.

And we need a Medicare system which works. Medicine is modern; it's evolving. Technology is changing medicine. New discoveries are changing medicine. But Medicare is not changing. It's stuck in the past. For the sake of fulfilling our promises to our seniors, we need a Medicare system which is modernized, and that means prescription drugs for every senior in America. And Saxby Chambliss and Phil Gingrey will help me deliver that promise to the seniors.

There's one other—a lot of issues that are going to be important, and I need an ally there in the Senate. Saxby is an ally. Make no mistake about it, in this race, if you're interested in sending an ally to the President, that ally is Saxby Chambliss. It doesn't matter what they're putting on the TV screens. I know the definition of ally.

I need an ally in the Senate on judges. We've got a problem with our Federal judges. The Senate has done a lousy job in confirming my judges. They have done such a lousy job that there are too many vacancies around the country. Vacancies on the Federal benches mean people are denied justice, and that's not right. Part of the problem is, there's just too much bickering, too much

ugly politics. Part of the problem is, they don't like the nature of the people I'm nominating. See, the kind of people I've put up there are honest, honorable people, who will not use the bench from which to legislate but will use the bench from which to strictly interpret the Constitution. If the people of Georgia are interested in a sound judiciary, they need to send Saxby Chambliss to the United States Senate.

There's a lot of issues we'll work on together, but no bigger issue than protecting the American people from attack. That's still an issue because there's still an enemy lurking around which hates America, and they hate us for what we love. We love freedom, and we're not changing. We love the fact that people can worship an almighty God freely in America. We love every aspect about freedom. And as long as we hold freedom dear, there's an enemy lurking around out there which will try to cause further harm on the American people. That's just the way it is. That's the clear reality we face.

So we have an awesome responsibility to do everything we can to protect you. You need to know there's a lot of really good people at the Federal, State, and local level working hard to protect you, running down every hint, every idea. Anytime we get a whisper that somebody is thinking about doing something or talking about doing something to the American people, we're moving on it; we're disrupting; we're denying. We understand the stakes.

But we can do a better job of protecting the American people. We can do a better job by creating a Department of Homeland Security, one which needs to be set up correctly so that it can function properly on behalf of the American people. As I was beginning to set up the Department of Homeland Security I knew one person I could turn to for good advice, somebody whose judgment I could trust, somebody from the State of Georgia who has a good vision, somebody who was put in a position as the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security, and that person I turned to advice was Saxby Chambliss.

And we got a good bill out of the House of Representatives, but they can't get it out of the Senate. It's stuck in the Senate. Here we are with a threat to the United States people, and we can't get us a homeland security bill. And the reason why is, some in the Senate wanted to extract too high a price from this President and future Presidents. They asked me to give up a power Presidents have had for 40 years, since John Kennedy was the President, and that is the ability to suspend collective bargaining rules in any Department in the Federal Government when national security is at stake.

In other words, I need to be able to suspend rules that prevents us from doing everything in our power to protect you. If some of the Senators had their way, these rules would apply to the Department of Agriculture but not to the Homeland Security Department. These rules would be okay for a Department that deals with farmers but not with a Department dealing with your national security. I need to have the ability to put the right people at the right place at the right time to protect the American people, and Saxby Chambliss understands that.

I sure would like to have a Senator Chambliss. I wouldn't have to be worried about his vote. I wouldn't have to be worried about him being captured by special interests in Washington, DC. The only interest he has in mind is the interest I have in mind, which is the protection of the American people.

And the best way to protect the American people is to chase these killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice, which is what we're going to do. Therapy isn't going to work on them. [*Laughter*]

I asked the Congress to join me in passing the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President, and they did. And it sends two messages, two messages I want to share with you today. One, any time we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. And secondly, we're in this deal for the long haul. That increase in defense spending should say to friend and foe alike, there's no quit in the American people. When it comes to the defense of our freedom, there's no artificial time; there's no calendar on my desk that says, well, time's up. Time isn't up until the United States is secure and we have done

our duty to future generations of Americans by defeating the agents of terror.

This is a different kind of war. In the old days you used to say, "Well, you destroyed so many tanks or airplanes. We're making progress." That's not the way this war is conducted. They don't have tanks. They've got caves, and they've got suiciders. And they're willing to send youngsters to their suicidal death. These people hijacked a great religion to murder in the name of that religion.

So we've just got to hunt them down. There's no cave dark enough, deep enough. There's no corner of the world shady enough for the long arm of justice of the United States and our friends and allies. You've got to understand, the doctrine that which says, "Either you're with us or with the enemy," it still stands. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling them. We've got them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run.

This is a different kind of world we live in. September the 11th, 2001 changed the stakes, and it's important for all of us in America to understand that. It's important for us to see the world the way it is, not the way we hope it would be. It used to be that oceans could protect us from threats, that two vast oceans could protect the American people from a threat which was gathering abroad. And we really had the luxury, if you think about it, for picking and choosing if we were to be involved or not. September 11th changed that. All of a sudden, the battlefield is here at home. And therefore, we must deal with each threat seriously. We must see threats as they are.

And that's why I brought up the cause to Congress and the American people and the international community to fully debate the issue of Saddam Hussein. He's a threat to America. He's a threat to our close friends and allies. He's a man who has said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, but he's got them. He's a man who at one time, we know for certain, was close to having a nuclear weapon. We don't know how close he is today, because he shut down his country. You know, not only does he have weapons of mass destruction, but incredibly enough, he has used weapons of mass destruction. And he's used weapons of mass destruction not only against people in his neighborhood, but he's used them against his own people.

He hates America. He can't stand what we stand for. He's had connections with shadowy terrorist networks like Al Qaida. He would like nothing more than to use an Al Qaida-type network, if not Al Qaida itself, to be the advanced army to utilize his training and his arsenal of weapons of mass destruction on his most hated enemy, the American people.

Therefore, I felt it was important for us to understand the nature of the threat, to realize the changing circumstances of the American vulnerability requires us to be steadfast and strong when it comes to dealing with potential threats to the American people. It's my most important job.

I went to the United Nations because I wanted to make it clear to the United Nations that, one, we want them to succeed; we want them to be an effective organization in helping us keep the peace; we want them to have backbone. We want them to have the capacity to say to somebody who 16 times has defied resolution after resolution after resolution, "Enough is enough."

The message to that august body is: Be effective; be the United Nations, not the League of Nations. The Congress spoke with one voice, and here's what we said to the world: If the United Nations does not have the backbone to disarm Saddam Hussein like they said he should do, and if Saddam Hussein will not disarm like he said he would, for the sake of peace, for the sake of freedom, for the sake of a secure future, the United States will lead a coalition to disarm Saddam Hussein.

We have an obligation, all of us elected to office have an obligation to protect the American people. But you know what I believe? I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good, because we're a great country. I can't imagine what was going through the minds of the enemy when they hit us. They probably assumed that materialism was the national religion, that we were so materialistic, that we were self-absorbed and selfish that after the attacks America would take a step back and maybe file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*]

They don't understand the country like we do. I believe that by being steadfast and strong, by remembering that this Nation never conquers but we liberate, by remembering that example of Afghanistan when our troops went in to liberate people—that young girls for the first time went to school, thanks to the United States and our friends and allies—by being diligent in our pursuit of terror, the pursuit of the terrorists, and remembering that freedom is not an American gift to the world, it is God-given, holding those values dear, that we can achieve peace, that we can achieve peace not only for America and Americans, but we can achieve peace in parts of the world which have quit on peace.

No, I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come a peaceful world. And I know out of the evil done here at home can come a better world for all Americans. Anytime anybody hurts, we all hurt. And we've got to remember, amongst the plenty, there are pockets of despair and loneliness. Some communities, you say, "American Dream," and people go, "What the heck are you talking about—American Dream—I don't understand that."

And therefore, we must do everything we can at the Government level to pass laws necessary to help people help themselves, to make society work better. I talked about some today, education and health. But we've got to remember that Government can pass out money, but it can't put hope in people's hearts. It can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives. It can't heal the hurt that we find in many of our neighborhoods.

A better America happens when we save souls, one person at a time. And that happens when an American puts their arm around somebody who needs help, and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you?" If you want to fight evil, love your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourselves.

No, the spirit of America is strong. It's alive, and it's well. The spirit talks about making sure that democracy flourishes by going to do your duty. It talks about the willingness to defend freedom, no matter the cost. It also talks about serving something greater than yourself to make America the greatest country it can possibly be.

Today I met Frances Grove, of the Literacy Volunteers of America. She came out to Air Force One to say hello, probably because she's a part of my mother's army to fight illiteracy. But nevertheless, she's an example of what I'm talking about. See, each of us can make a difference to make sure that the evil done to America is—doesn't stand. Each of us can help, by helping people in need. It doesn't matter whether you work with Frances Grove or mentor a child or run a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop. It doesn't matter whether you feed the homeless or make sure people who are—people are—people who have hurt find love. That's what matters in life, and that's what's happening.

Perhaps the most vivid example of the strength of the American spirit, of what I'm talking about, took place on Flight 93. You remember that horrible day, when the people were flying across the country. They learned the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. History will show they said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves. They represented the absolute strength of the American spirit.

I'm going to tell you this: Out of the evil done to America is going to come some incredible good. I can say that with certainty. It's going to be a peaceful world, a better world. I say it with certainty because I understand the American spirit is alive and well. And I also understand that this country is the greatest country, full of the finest, most decent, compassionate people on the face of the Earth.

I want to thank you for being a part of this great country. Thank you for doing your duty. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:18 p.m. at the Cobb Galleria Centre. In his remarks, he referred to gubernatorial candidate Sonny Perdue; senatorial candidate Saxby Chambliss; Phil Gingrey, candidate for Georgia's 11th Congressional District; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Savannah, Georgia

November 2, 2002

Thank you all. You all go ahead and be seated. So Saxby says to me, he says, "Thanks for coming. Thanks for speaking, but don't go on too long. There's a football game on pretty soon."

I want to thank you all for coming today. I'm here to remind you and our fellow citizens from Georgia and America that we have a duty. If you love freedom like I know you do, you have a duty to vote. If you're interested in making sure democracy is strong, you have a duty and an obligation as an American to go to the polls. And I'm not just talking about those who call themselves Republicans or Democrats. I'm talking about citizens who could care less about political parties. We all have a responsibility.

But I've got some suggestions for you when you get inside the box. [*Laughter*] What's best for Georgia and what is best for America is to send Saxby Chambliss to the U.S. Senate. What's best for Georgia and what's best for this district—put Max Burns in the U.S. Congress. And what is best for the State of Georgia, for your budget, for your public schools, is to put Sonny Perdue in as Governor of the State of Georgia.

Sonny is a down-to-earth fellow. You don't have to worry about him getting any fancy airs when he becomes your Governor. He's a fellow who's met a payroll. It seems to make sense to me to have somebody as Governor who knows what it's like to meet a payroll, particularly if you're interested about people finding jobs. He's a person that understands the importance of infrastructure in Georgia, not only infrastructure for the big cities but roads for those of you who live in rural and smalltown Georgia. He's a man who understands the most important priority for a State is the education of our children. There's no doubt in my mind Sonny Perdue is going to make a great Governor for the people of Georgia.

I appreciate the members of the congressional delegation who are here. Charlie Norwood is here with us today, and Charlie, thank you for your leadership and your friendship. And Congressman Jack Kingston is with us as well. I met Jack's mother at the airport. She was down there at the foot of the stairs just as I came off the plane here. And I said, "Well, is Jack listening to you?" She said, "About half the time"—[*laughter*]—kind of like me and my mother. [*Laughter*]

Speaking about females with the last name of Bush, you drew the short straw today. See, I wasn't Saxby's first choice. He wanted Laura to be here, but she sends her best. She sends her best to the people of Georgia. Like me, she's urging you to go to the polls. Like me, she knows what's best for Georgia is that Saxby become the United States Senator. She's out there campaigning today. She's campaigning hard. I believe she's in Minnesota, and I know I'm going to meet her tomorrow in South Dakota.

It's pretty ironic that she is the lead campaigner for my family. After all, when I married her, she was a public school librarian. That in itself doesn't say much, except the truth is, she didn't like politics, and she certainly didn't like politicians. But thankfully, she said yes when I asked her to marry me. And the American people now know why I did. She's calm and steady during crisis. She's got a fabulous smile, a great heart. She's got a vision where every child can learn to read in America. And she's doing a wonderful job as our First Lady.

I'm here as well because I want to make sure that Denny Hastert remains the Speaker of the House of Representatives. It's in our—and so, therefore, I'm a strong supporter of Max Burns, and I urge you to support Max come Tuesday. He'll make you a fine United States Congressman. He's a proven leader, and he spent 20 years of his life in the classroom. That makes a lot of sense to have somebody in the Congress who's had the practical experience of being a teacher. I bet there's some good teachers here today. Teaching is a noble profession. It's an important profession. Why don't you send yourself a teacher up to Washington, DC, to represent you in the United States Congress.

We've got another fellow here who's seeking the vote that I hope wins, and that's Calder Clay. Calder Clay is running a good campaign, and if you're living in his district, give him all your support.

Today I'm proud to be up here with Nancy Coverdell, the widow of our great friend Paul Coverdell. She is a—she's cool. [*Laughter*] She's a great person. And with us as well is former Senator Mack Mattingly. And I'm honored that both of them have joined today to do what we need to do, which is to work hard to turn out the vote. I'm here not only to urge you to vote; I'm here to urge you to urge others to vote. If you're the grassroots types, people that understand politics, you know that turning to your neighbor and saying, "Let's go out and vote," is an important way to help these people get elected. You understand what I understand: Coffee shop chatter is just as effective as all those endless ads you see on TV.

So when you go to your coffee shops or your houses of worship over the next couple of days or your community centers, tell your neighbors it's not only important to vote but tell them to support these good candidates up here on the stage. And don't be afraid to talk to Democrats, by the way. There are a lot of Democrats in this part of the world that know the difference between a balanced budget and not. There are a lot of Democrats in this part of the world who want somebody who can stand strong for homeland security. There are a lot of good Democrats who understand that this President needs good support in Washington, DC. And so over the next couple of days, I urge you to man the phones, to turn out the vote, to energize the grassroots, to get people to do their duty, to support these good candidates. You can make a difference come Tuesday with your active energy.

And there are some reasons. We've got some big hurdles to cross here in America. We've got some big challenges ahead of us. I need people with whom I can work in the Senate and Congress to meet those challenges. One of the big challenges we have is to make sure people can find work in America. Our economy is bumping along. Our economy isn't good enough, as far as I'm concerned. Oh, there's some positive signs, but too many people can't find work in America. That's how I gauge whether or not we're doing fine in the economy. Anybody who wants to put food on the table and can't find a job, says to me we've got a problem.

And therefore, we need people in the United States Congress who will work with me to expand the job base. And one of the best ways to expand the job base is understand how jobs are created. Small business creates 70 percent of the new jobs in America. Small-business owners—we've got to have plans and policies that encourage the growth of small business, but we've also got to understand this: If you let a person keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand an additional good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, in the marketplace, somebody is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces that good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. That's why the tax relief plan that Saxby Chambliss supported came at the right time in American history.

That tax relief plan, if it's permanent, means $39 billion in your pocket over the next 10 years. After all, it's your money to begin with. It's not the Government's money. It's your money. But there's an issue of whether or not that tax relief is going to go away. See, it's not permanent. I need people in the United States Congress, like the candidates up here on this stage, who will join me in making the tax cuts permanent. For the sake of jobs, for the sake of people finding work, we need to make the tax cuts permanent.

And let me give you fair warning; let me help you break the code of Washington, DC. When you hear them say, "Oh, we might need to revisit the tax cuts," that means they're fixing to get in your pocket. That's what that means. We don't need people from this part of the State or this part of the country who are going to get back in your pocket. We need people who understand the role of Government is to create an environment in which small businesses can grow to big businesses, in which people can find work because of growth.

No, there's a lot of issues we're going to be working on. We need to continue working on education. We passed a good bill, and Saxby Chambliss was involved in the passage of that bill. You tell your neighbors that when

it comes to passing good education reform legislation out of Washington, Saxby Chambliss took an active role. It says we trust the people of Georgia to chart the path for excellence for every child. See, we believe in local control of schools. It says we're going to have high standards for every child, all across the country. It says we believe every child can learn. It says we're going to spend some substantial money out of Washington, but in return for the money, we want to know whether or not every child is learning. We don't want children trapped in schools which won't teach and won't change. We want to make sure no child in the State of Georgia gets left behind.

I look forward to working with these Members to make sure that health care works, particularly Medicare. Our medicine has changed for the better. New technologies, new discoveries have made medicine modern. Medicare isn't modern. Medicare is stuck in the past. Medicare has become a political football. We need people in Congress who will work with us to make sure Medicare is modern. And a modern Medicare system means prescription drug benefits for our seniors.

I need people in the Senate with whom I can work to make sure our judiciary is full of judges who are honest and will not—[*applause*]. Bunch up there running the Senate right now has done a lousy job when it comes to my nominees for the Federal bench. I say "lousy job" because we've got a vacancy problem on our benches. All across America there's too many vacancies, which means you don't get the justice you deserve. They're playing politics with the judges. They don't like the kind of people I'm nominating. You see, I'm putting the ones up there that not only can do the job, but they're not going to use the bench from which to legislate. They're going to use the bench from which to strictly interpret the U.S. Constitution. And make no mistake about it in this race, if you're interested in a judiciary which is going to work and represent your views, Saxby Chambliss is the right United States Senator.

No, there's a lot of issues we can work on together. But there's no more important issue than your protection. That's the biggest issue we face in Washington, DC, is to protect innocent life, is to protect you from an enemy which still lurks out there. And you've just got to know, they're there, and they hate us because of what we love. And we love freedom. We love the fact that people can pray to an Almighty any way he or she sees fit. We love the freedom to speak our mind. We love a free press. We love every aspect of our freedom, and we're not going to change.

And that enemy has put us on alert. See, we now understand. And therefore, there's a lot of good people doing everything they can to protect you, at all levels of government, the Federal level and the State level and the local level. We've got people running down any hint. Anytime we get any idea that somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're moving on it. We're disrupting. We're denying. We're doing everything we can.

But I think we can do a better job of protecting you. That's why I suggested to the Congress that we come together to form a Department of Homeland Security, one that will allow the agencies involved with securing the homeland, like port security right over here, to be able to better coordinate, to be able to better prioritize, and if need be, change cultures so that you've got everybody in the Federal Government and the State Government and the local government working together.

And the House of Representatives responded. As a matter of fact, when it came time to create this Department, and the ideas about the Department, I turned to the man from Georgia, Saxby Chambliss, for ideas, because he understands the issue. After all, he is the chairman of the House Subcommittee on Terrorism and Homeland Security. Not only do I trust his judgment, but Members of the Congress trust his judgment. And so we got us a good bill out of the House.

But it's stuck in the Senate. The Senate couldn't get the job done, and here's why. They wanted me to forfeit power which every President since John F. Kennedy has had. See, every President since Kennedy has had the capacity to suspend collective bargaining

rules in any Department of the Federal Government when our national security is at stake. In other words, if there's some work rules that prevent the Homeland Security Department from doing its job, I would have the capacity, for the sake of national security, to suspend those rules. And some Senators say, "You can't have that power." See, there's too much special interest in Washington, trying to make the decisions on behalf of the American people.

Let me give you what would happen if this went through. I would have the capacity to suspend work rules in the Department of Agriculture for the sake of national security, but not in the Department that is being created to secure you. It just doesn't make any sense. And therefore, I need a guy like Saxby Chambliss in the Senate who won't crater to the special interests in Washington, and join me in protecting the interests of the American people.

But the best way to protect America is to hunt these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. And that's exactly what we're going to do. We have no choice, see. History has called us into action. We love our freedoms, and we're not going to give in to these terrorists. We owe it to our children and our children's children. That's why I went to the United States Congress and asked them for the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was President. And I want to thank the Members of Congress for agreeing to that request.

And the message is loud and clear: First, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best pay, and the best possible equipment. And secondly, here's the message to friend and foe alike with this defense bill: We're in this deal for the long haul. There's no quit in America. There's not a calendar in the Oval Office that says, by such-and-such a date, haul them in, Mr. President. That's not the way we think, and that's certainly not the way I think. It doesn't matter how long it takes to hunt these killers down; we have an obligation to our future to secure freedom and to secure the country.

And we're making progress. This is a different kind of war. The old days you use to—could measure the number of tanks destroyed or airplanes shot down or ships sunk, and you'd say, "Gosh, you're making progress." These people don't have tanks. They don't have airplanes. They're cold-blooded killers who hide in caves and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. That's the way they think, and that's the way they fight, which means we've got to keep that coalition together.

So I'm here to tell you today, the doctrine which says, "Either you're with us or with the enemy," it still stands. We're on an international manhunt, one at a time. A couple of thousand have been hauled in; a couple of thousand met their fate a different way. They're not a problem. A lot of them met their fate a different way because they dared challenge the United States and the greatest military in the history of the world.

Slowly but surely, we're bringing them to justice. It's going to take a while, but this country understands the stakes. See, it all changed on September the 11th, 2001. It used to be that oceans could protect us. It used to be that if there was a threat somewhere overseas, that we could determine whether or not we would deal with that threat, because we were pretty secure here at home. You just got to understand it's a different era. That's why it's essential we think about the world the way it is, not the way we would hope the world would be. My job is to be as realistic about the threats as possible and to deal with them. It's the job of Senators and Congressmen to be as realistic about the true threats we face and deal with them.

And therefore, I asked the country to debate an important issue, and that is Iraq and Saddam Hussein. I wanted there to be a honest and open debate in our Congress, reflecting the concerns of the American people. I wanted there to be a debate in international bodies, because I understand that Saddam Hussein is a threat to the American people; he's a threat to our friends; he's a threat to our allies. He said he would not have weapons of mass destruction. And after 11 years of deceit, he has them. He was close at one time to having a nuclear weapon. We don't know how close he is today, but a Saddam Hussein with a nuclear weapon is a grave,

grave threat to America and our friends and allies.

He said he wouldn't have chemical weapons. He has them. But not only has he got them; I want you all to remember, he used them. He not only possesses; he has had a history of using them. And he's used them not only on his neighbors, but he's used them on his own people. This man is coldblooded. He can't stand America. He can't stand our friends. He can't stand freedom.

And so I went to the United Nations, and I reminded them, for 16 resolutions, resolution after resolution after resolution, Saddam Hussein has defied this international organization. And my point to the U.N. was, we want you to be effective. We want to be able to work with you to help keep the peace. We want you to be the United Nations, not the League of Nations. But if you're unable to act, if you're unable to have the backbone necessary to help us keep the peace by disarming Saddam Hussein, if you can't do it and if Saddam Hussein refuses to do it, then the United States, in the name of peace and in the name of freedom, will lead a coalition and disarm Saddam Hussein.

I say that because I want the world to be peaceful. I want there to be peace here at home. I want there to be peace around the world. See, the evil ones hit us, and they've given us an opportunity to do some good. Out of the evil done to America will do good because we're a great nation, full of decent and honorable people. I truly believe that if we hold the line, that if we stay steadfast in routing out terror, that if we're diligent and are willing to lead, that if we remember our values and that freedom isn't an American-given value, it is a God-given value for everybody, if we remember those values that make us unique, we're going to achieve peace. We can accomplish some real good out of the evil done to this country, not only abroad but here at home as well.

One of the things I believe is going to happen is that we will be a better America. Out of the evil done to America will come a more compassionate country. We've got to remember, in this land of plenty, there's a lot of people who hurt. People wonder whether or not the American Dream is meant for them. There's addiction and hopelessness and loneliness. And Government can help solve those problems, and we're going to try to do so. But you've got to remember this: Even though Government can hand out money, it can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives.

The best way to help heal America, the best way to make sure good comes out of evil, is for our fellow Americans to put their arms around somebody who hurts and says, "I love you, brother," or, "I love you, sister."

And that's what's happening all across America. See, the American spirit is alive and well. It's the spirit that says when it comes to the defense of our freedom, we're plenty tough. It's also a spirit that says we're going to serve something greater than ourself in life, that part of being a patriot is to recognize service to your community is an integral part of being an American.

Today when I landed, I met Sharon Seng, who represents the Girl Scouts. I didn't realize it—I now know it—the Girl Scouts were founded right here in Savannah, Georgia. That's part of the soldiers in the armies of compassion. She is, and so are you. If you mentor a child, you're part of the army of compassion. If you feed the hungry or the homeless, you're a member of the army of compassion. If you help a shut-in, if you're a Boy Scout leader, if you go over to the Boys and Girls Clubs, if you help change America, one heart, one soul at a time, you're a part of this great movement to make America a more compassionate place.

No, the American spirit is alive and well, best exemplified by what took place on the fateful day that changed our history, and that was on Flight 93. Citizens were flying across the country. They learned the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye over modern devices, cell phones. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to save lives.

The enemy didn't understand who they were hitting. They don't understand the country. The American spirit is strong. It's alive all throughout our land. People understand that serving this country by helping people in need is a part of the new patriotism, which allows me to boldly predict this: Out of the evil done to America is going to

come a more peaceful world. Out of the evil done to America is going to come a more hopeful America, because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest, most compassionate people on the face of this Earth.

Thank you for coming today. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:10 p.m. in the Executive Aviation Hangar at Savannah International Airport in Garden City, GA. In his remarks, he referred to senatorial candidate Saxby Chambliss; gubernatorial candidate Sonny Perdue; Max Burns, candidate for Georgia's 12th Congressional District; Calder Clay, candidate for Georgia's 3d Congressional District; Ann Kingston, mother of Representative Jack Kingston; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Tampa, Florida

November 2, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thanks a lot. Thank you all. Jeb and I are sure glad we came. You're lifting his spirits, and I appreciate that more than you know.

I want to thank you all for coming. I'm traveling the country, reminding people about the American spirit, the fact that no matter what the cost, we'll defend our freedom; this American spirit that says to be a patriot, you've got to serve something greater than yourself; a spirit of America that says we love freedom, and if you love freedom, you have a duty to vote.

If you love our country, it doesn't matter what your political party is; you have an obligation to participate in democracy. I've come into this important State to urge people from all walks of life, from all political parties, to do your duty next Tuesday. But when you get in that voting booth, I've got a good suggestion for you. [*Laughter*] For the sake of the Florida taxpayers, for the sake of the Florida schoolchildren, for the sake of dignity and integrity in the office of Governor, send Jeb Bush back to Tallahassee. And you might as well send Frank Brogan back with him. They make a great team, on behalf of all the citizens of this State.

One of the things Jeb and I share in common, besides a fine mother who's still telling us what to do on a regular basis—[*laughter*]—is, we both married above ourselves. We both have got great wives. I'm honored to be here with the great first lady for Florida, Columba Bush and of course, a University of Texas law school student—Hollywood handsome, I might add—a great man, George P. Bush.

You drew the short straw tonight. You got me instead of Laura. [*Laughter*] She's campaigning up north, and you got stuck with the President. But she sends her love. She sends her love to Jeb and Columba. She sends her best to all our friends in Florida. And like me, she reminds you: Go to the polls, and take some friends to the polls so this good man can serve you for 4 more years.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. And that's another reason I've come today, is because I want to urge you to help Jeb. See, I want you to go to your houses of worship tomorrow, go to your coffee shops on Monday—go to your coffee shops, go to your community centers. Tell anybody who will listen what a good man you've got in your Governor. I want to remind you, make sure you don't ignore Democrats.

See, they don't want their taxes raised—a lot of them don't. Democrats in Florida know the difference between somebody who tells it like it is and somebody who just tells it any way he sees fit. [*Laughter*] Democrats in this State want good government. They want somebody to do what he says he's going to do in office. Independents want the same thing. So starting tomorrow, round up people and tell them to go to the polls on Tuesday. Jeb's counting on your help, and so am I.

And you won't be wasting your time. You watch and see what happens next Tuesday, thanks to your hard work, thanks to his good message, thanks to his great record. Not only are Republicans going to turn out in droves, but this man is going to get independent vote, discerning Democrat vote; wise Democrats are going to come his way. And you're going to have 4 more years of a great Governor in Jeb Bush.

I want to thank a couple of Members of Congress who are here. I know Bill Young is here. I call him "the Chairman." See, he runs the Appropriations Committee in the

House of Representatives. Not only do I call him "the Chairman;" I call him "sir." [*Laughter*] He's a powerful Member from Florida, and he's a great Member from Florida. I'm proud to call him friend, and I'm proud he's here.

Mike Bilirakis is here as well, a fine Member of the United States Congress. These are two of the good ones, and you've got a fine person running for Congress as well. Her name is Ginny Brown-Waite. We need to send her to the United States Congress. So when you're out there rounding up the votes for Jeb, don't forget Ginny.

I'm also to be up here with a member of my Cabinet. I wanted somebody to work with me to close the housing gap in America. Too many of them are minorities, don't own their house; too many of them don't own a home. We're going to close that gap. It makes sense to encourage people to own something in the great country called America. We want all people—[*applause*]—there's nothing more—there's nothing better than owning your own home. Too many of our African Americans don't own a home. Too many Hispanics in this country don't own a home. And so I called upon a Floridian to help me close that homeownership gap.

I picked a solid American, a man of great success, a man who represents the best of the country. After all, his parents, when he was a little boy, put him on the boat to escape the clutches of Fidel Castro, so he could grow up in freedom, and now he's a member of the President's Cabinet, Mel Martinez.

I'm also proud to be up here with the great General Norman Schwarzkopf, the man who set the example.

Finally, I want to thank the good folks here at the University of South Florida, particularly President Judy Genshaft for her hospitality, and all the good folks who put up with us today. It's a great place to celebrate the candidacy and the soon-to-be victory of Jeb Bush. We thank you for your hospitality.

The thing you've got to remember about this good man who's your Governor is, he did in office what he said he would do. See, that's important. We've got too many in the political process who just say things, just kind of float something out there and hope it sounds good, hope somebody might bite on it, hope it convinces people, but have no intentions or capabilities of getting it done. That's the exact opposite of your Governor. He said he was going to work to improve education for every child in the State of Florida, and he has fulfilled that promise.

See, he's got the right mindset. He believes every child can learn; that's what he believes. And therefore, he's willing to ask the question: Can every child read; can every child write; can every child add and subtract? And if not, he's willing to challenge the status quo. You have a Governor who will not be captured by special interests. You have a Governor with one interest in mind, to make sure that no child in the State of Florida is left behind.

We're going through some tough economic times in America. We're kind of bumping along, is how I describe it, just bumping. And that's not good enough for this country. Anytime somebody who wants to work and can't find a job, it says we've got a problem. But there are some bright spots in this Nation about job creation. And the brightest of all bright spots is right here in the State of Florida. This man, he just doesn't talk about jobs. You're creating them here.

He and I understand this: The role of Government is not to create wealth but an environment in which the entrepreneur can flourish, in which the small business can grow to be big businesses. No, you've got the right man if you're worried about the economic vitality of your State. You've got the right man if you're worried about job creation. That man is Jeb Bush.

Been tough budget times for a lot of States. It's tough economic times. Remember, we went through a recession. And then the enemy hit us. Then we had a little problem with some of our corporate executives. [*Laughter*] They forgot what it would mean to be a responsible leader. They forgot what it means to tell the truth. Some of them thought they could fudge the books, shade the numbers. Those days are over with.

Thanks to Members of Congress here, I had the ability to sign the toughest law, the corporate reform law, since Franklin Roosevelt. There's not going to be any more easy money, just hard time when we catch you

fudging the numbers and not doing your responsibility.

But as a result of these tough times, revenues have dwindled in States, and it's been hard for some Governors to manage the budget—not the Governor of Florida. This man managed the budget during tough economic times. He took on the tough tasks to make sure your money was spent properly. He understands what I know: When you're talking about money in Tallahassee or money in Washington, it's not the Government's money; it's your money. And Jeb Bush is a good steward of your money.

It should be clear to the people of Florida from all political parties that the man knows what he's doing, that the man is a plain speaker, that the man cares deeply about the citizens of this State. When he hears of hurt, he doesn't go around and say, "Well, if you're hurting, I'll only try to help you if you're a Republican." He cries when anybody hurts. He's got deep compassion for the citizens of Florida, an honest man, who's brought integrity and dignity to the office. He's the kind of guy that will make you proud. He's the kind of guy that you need to send back to Tallahassee as a reelected Governor of Florida.

Audience members. Four more years! Four more years! Four more years!

The President. Jeb has handled tough problems in Tallahassee, and we're going to handle tough problems in Washington on your behalf. I talked about the economy. I'm worried about people not being able to find work. We'll do everything we can to make sure job creation is strong. And the best way to do that is to let you keep more of your own money. Those tax cuts we passed came at the right time in American history.

Now, when you hear them talking about in Washington up there, "Oh, we better revisit the tax cuts"——

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. ——that just means they're fixing to try to get in your pocket. For the sake of economic vitality, for the sake of growth, and for the sake of jobs, we need to make the tax cuts permanent.

No, there's a lot of issues we'll be working on. We'll be working on health care issues, of course. We've got to make sure Medicare works. Medicine has changed. Medicine is modern. Technology has changed medicine. New discoveries have changed medicine. But Medicare is stuck in the past. It hasn't changed. For the sake of fulfilling our promise to seniors, I need to have people in Washington, DC, with whom I can work to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drugs for the seniors of the State of Florida.

No, there's a lot of issues we need to work on. But the biggest issue of all is to protect you. You see, there's still an enemy out there that lurks around. They hate us. They hate us because of what we love. We love the freedom to worship. We love the freedom to speak our mind. We love every aspect about freedom, and we're not changing. And so long as we love, they hate. And so we've got a task ahead, and that is to protect you. That's why I went to Congress and said, in spite of the fact that a lot of good people are working hard—you see, anytime we get a hint, any piece of evidence that somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're moving on them. We're disrupting them. We're denying them.

But the threat is real. And therefore I went to Congress and said, "Give us a Homeland Security Department, so we can better coordinate the agencies involved with protecting you. Give us something to make sure that we can change cultures, so that people get the message that our number one responsibility in Washington, DC, is to protect the American people from further attack." The Members of the House responded, but it's stuck in the United States Senate.

Audience members. Boo-o-o!

The President. Yes, and it's stuck in the United States Senate, and you need to know why it's stuck in the United States Senate, and you might let some of your Senators know why it's stuck. It's because they want me to give up power that Presidents have had since John F. Kennedy.

See, Presidents since John F. Kennedy have had the capacity to suspend some collective bargaining rules, in any Department of the Federal Government, for the sake of national security. In other words, I'll have the capacity—I do have the capacity today, unless the Senate has its way, for me to take

some rules and set them aside so we can better protect you. And that's the issue, and I'm not giving up that power, for the sake of the American people.

But the best way to protect you is to hunt these killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. Therapy won't work. [*Laughter*] I asked Congress for a big increase in defense spending. I want to thank Chairman Young for leading the way. I had the honor of signing a defense appropriations bill, which increased defense spending, the largest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President, and there's two reasons why. I want you to hear the reasons.

One, anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment. And secondly, you need to know and our friends need to know and our enemy needs to know, we're in this deal for the long haul. There's not a calendar on my desk in the Oval Office that says on such-and-such a date, we're pulling them in. No matter how long it takes, no matter what the cost is, we will defend freedom. History has called us into action, and we're not going to tire. We're not going to quit until we have defeated the agents of terror and until America is safe and our friends are safe.

And we're making progress. This is a different kind of war. In the old days, you know, if you destroyed an enemy's tanks or sunk his ships or knocked down airplanes, you knew you were making progress. A lot of these folks don't have tanks. They hide in caves. They send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. So therefore, the doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," is just as important today as it was a year ago, and it still stands.

Slowly but surely, we're hunting them down. It's going to take awhile. You just have got to know it's going to take awhile. But the stakes are high. And they're really high, particularly on what happened on September the 11th. You see, a cold reality came—my job, by the way, is to see the world the way it is, not the way we hope—hope it is. And there's a cold reality. Oceans no longer protect us from threats. Oceans no longer protect us from gathering dangers across the—in other parts of the world.

It used to be, we could pick or choose. We learned a lesson that the battlefield is here at home, and we've got to be realistic about that. And that's why I started the debate on Iraq. You see, I view the man as a serious threat to America and our friends and allies. He's a man who has told the world he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, yet he does. We know a while ago that he was close to having a nuclear weapon. We have no idea today how close he is. If he has a nuclear weapon, it's a serious problem for America and our friends and allies.

We know he's got chemical weapons. He said he wouldn't have them, but we know he's got them. Not only does he have them, he used them. He used them in his neighborhood. He used them on his own people.

We know that he's had connections with Al Qaida. There would be nothing more pleasing to him to be able to use one of these shadowy terrorist networks. He could serve as the armory and the training grounds. They could be the deliverer of weapons, and we would never see his fingerprints.

We know he's a danger. And that's why I went to the United Nations, to take my explanation there. See, I want the United Nations to succeed. I think it's important in the new threats facing America that we have an international body that has got the backbone necessary to hold people to account. For 11 years, however, this guy has defied the United Nations. Not once, not twice, but 16 times he has said, "Forget it."

And therefore, I have said to the United Nations, "Show us whether you can be an effective body at keeping the peace or whether or not you'll be the League of Nations. Show us whether or not you'll be an effective—ability to hold people to account, or whether you're going to be an empty debating society"—their choice to make.

And Mr. Saddam Hussein has got a choice to make as well. He has said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. We expect him not to have weapons of mass destruction. But the Congress spoke with a voice that I hear, and I believe that, if they do not disarm Saddam Hussein, if the United Nations can't

act and he himself will not disarm, for the sake of peace and for the sake of freedom, the United States will lead a coalition to disarm him.

I don't know what was going through the mind of the enemy. I can't imagine what the enemy was thinking when they hit us. They probably thought the national religion of America was materialism, that we were so materialistic and caught up in money that we were selfish and self-absorbed and shallow. Oh, they probably thought that after September the 11th, 2001, we'd file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*]

You see, they know something—they don't know something I know, that the spirit of America is strong, the American spirit is alive and well, that this great Nation, if we stay the course, if we remain strong, if we speak clearly, if we remember that freedom is not an American gift to the world, it is a God-given gift to the world, if we remain true to our principles and values, we can achieve peace. And that's the dream, to achieve peace. And that's one of the good that's going to come out of the incredible evil done to America.

And you know what else is going to happen in America? America is going to be a better country as a result of what happened to us. We still weep for the victims. We still mourn for those who lost life. But out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good.

It's because you've got people like Jeb Bush, who understand the true strength of the country lies not in the halls of Government but in the hearts and souls of our fellow citizens. He and I know that Government can hand out money, and we will do everything we can to try to help people help themselves and reform programs and make sure education works. But Government cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That does when—that happens when people put their arm around somebody who hurts and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you? Can I mentor you? Can I be the head of a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop or run a Boys or Girls Club?"

No, you see, the important thing to remember is that if you want to make a difference in America, you can help change this country one heart, one hurting soul, one conscience at a time. And although one of us can't do everything, each of us can do something to make an enormous difference.

No, the enemy hit us. They had no idea who they were hitting. Out of the evil done to America is going to come a peaceful world. And out of the evil done to America is going to come a more hopeful and compassionate tomorrow, because the American spirit is alive and well. It is strong; it is vibrant.

I want to thank you all for coming tonight. I want to thank you for supporting my brother, Jeb. May God bless you. And may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:20 p.m. in the Sun Dome at the University of South Florida. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, his wife, Columba, and their son George P. Bush; Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan of Florida; Ginny Brown-Waite, candidate for Florida's Fifth Congressional District; Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, USA (Ret.), former commander of Operation Desert Storm; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Springfield, Illinois

November 3, 2002

Thank you all for coming today. It's such an honor to be here, and I'm glad I came. Jim said, "If you come over, you might be able to say hello to a few of my friends." [*Laughter*]

I do have the portrait of Abraham Lincoln on the wall of the Oval Office. I do so because I think he was our country's greatest President. I think he was our country's greatest President because he understood that a united country is one that can achieve big things. He had great faith in the American people. He was willing to stand by principle. He understood his duty to future generations of Americans. And that's what I'm here to talk about today, the American spirit.

The American spirit is alive and well in America. It's the spirit that says we're willing to defend our freedom no matter what the cost. The American spirit says that we must serve something greater than ourselves. The

American spirit says that if you love democracy, you've got to go to the polls. The American spirit says that there's obligations to our citizens—by our citizens to our country. And one of the most solemn obligations is to exercise your right as a citizen in the United States to vote.

I'm coming to Illinois to make sure that all people hear this message, Republicans and Democrats, people who could care less about political parties. But when you get in that poll, I've got a suggestion for you. [*Laughter*] For the sake of Illinois, for the sake of this congressional district, for the sake of the country, put John Shimkus back in the United States Congress.

I appreciate Karen and the Shimkus family; I appreciate their hard work on John's behalf. You drew the short straw today, speaking about wives. Pretty soon after a couple of stops, I'll be joining up with Laura in South Dakota. Shimkus really did want Laura as the speaker. [*Laughter*] Wise man. [*Laughter*] But she sends her best. She sends our love to our friends here in Illinois. Like me, she urges you to support this good man for the United States Congress.

And while you're in that voting booth, support a good man for Governor. His name is Jim Ryan. He's got a record you can be proud of. You've seen him in action. You know he can do the job. A lot of folks around this State have written him off. I think they spoke a little too soon, don't you?

And I'm proud to say I'm for Jim Durkin for the United States Senate. There's a lot of reasons why we need Jim in the Senate, but let me give you one good reason. I need somebody to help me fulfill one of my most awesome responsibilities, which is to pick good judges for our Federal benches. The current Senate has done a lousy job on the judges. We've got a vacancy crisis in America, which means Americans aren't getting justice, and that's not right. We have a vacancy crisis because they won't give a lot of my nominees a fair hearing. They won't give them a vote. They don't like the fact that I'm naming good, honorable people who will not use the bench from which to legislate, but will use the bench to strictly interpret the Constitution of the United States.

I'm also proud to be up here with Joe Birkett, who's running for the attorney general; Kristine Cohn for secretary of state; Thomas Ramsdell for comptroller; and Judy Topinka to be reelected for your treasurer.

I want to thank my friends Jim and Brenda Edgar for coming today. They're a class act. I'm proud to call him friend. I've known him for quite a while. I was going to say, "my old friend," but might offend him. [*Laughter*] I also appreciate the Springfield High Marching Jazz Band for being here today, and the Debby Ross Band for coming, too.

If you're 18 years old, you've got to vote. You make sure you go vote. And take my advice when you're in there. [*Laughter*]

I want to thank you all very much for—I want to thank you so much for being involved in the political process. See, grassroots politics decides who wins and who loses. I believe that. So much of this stuff is done on TV, and that's part of the process, but the person who's going to win, particularly in this race, is the one who can get their friends to the polls. So my call to you today is, take time out of your day tomorrow, this afternoon, and on election day, and get somebody to go to the polls with you. If you voted absentee, get somebody to go to the polls on election day on your behalf. [*Laughter*]

Don't be afraid of getting—of talking to Democrats. Democrats know a good Congressman when they see one. John Shimkus has done a good job as the United States Congress. Make sure you don't forget to talk to independents. They care about good government. My point to you is, is that turn out to vote. Do whatever it takes. Get on the phones. Grab your neighbor. Do whatever it takes to get people to the polls, because we're supporting a good slate of candidates for the different offices for which they're running. These are good people, and they need our help, and they deserve our support.

Let me talk about John a little bit. First of all, he's done in office what he said he would do. That's refreshing. He's a good, honest man. He's a hard-working fellow. He's represented this district with class and distinction. He's an ally of mine. I can count on him. I don't need somebody from this district where I have to look over my shoulder,

wondering where they're standing. I don't need somebody having to run a focus group decide whether or not the President's agenda makes any sense for the American people.

Not only has John done the job, not only do I call him friend, but it seems like it makes sense to me to send him back to the Congress so that the Speaker of the House of Representatives is from the State of Illinois. It makes practical sense to me. [*Laughter*] It seems like it should make sense to people who live in this district to understand that Denny Hastert is not only good for Illinois, he's really good for the country, and his leadership has made an important difference.

I need John up there because we've got some big hurdles to cross here in America. We've got some issues that we've got to work together on, got some problems to solve. One of the biggest problems we've got is, there's some people in this country that can't find work, and that troubles me. Our economy is kind of bouncing along; it's not as good as it should be. It needs to be stronger, because anytime somebody is looking for work and can't find a job means we've got a problem. I want people to be able to put food on the table. That's why it's so important to have Members of Congress who understand the role of Government. It's not to create wealth but an environment in which the small business can grow to be a big business, in which the entrepreneurial spirit of America can flourish.

John understands that one way to create an environment in which there's job growth is to understand how important taxes are in the equation for creating jobs. See, if you let people keep more of their own money, they're likely to demand a good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to find a job in America. Tax relief is good for small businesses. It's good for consumers, and it's good for job creation in America.

Over the next 10 years, if these tax cuts are permanent, you'll get $81 billion of your own money to spend. That means jobs for the American people—that's what that means. And I want you to be wary. I've learned to decode some of the talk in Washington, DC. They say, "Let's revisit the tax relief." That means they're fixing to get in your pocket. That's what that means. [*Laughter*] John Shimkus and I understand, for the sake of jobs, for the sake of small-business growth, we need to make the tax cuts permanent.

I appreciated his help on getting a trade bill through the Congress. Trade is good for this part of the State. Trade means people are going to be able to find work. Trade means, when we're selling those farm implement products overseas, somebody is going to be likely to have a job in this part of the world. Trade is good for job creation in America, and John Shimkus understands that.

Somebody told me Ray LaHood is here. I hope he is. He's a fine Congressman from up the next district over. Where is Big Ray? There he is. He knows what I'm talking about. He understands what trade means. It also is good for your farmers and your ranchers. When you're good at something, you want to be able to sell it. We're really good at growing crops. We're really good at raising cows and hogs and chickens, and we need to be selling our food all across the world. And that's what the trade bill will enable us to do.

No, there's a lot of things we can do together. One thing John did was join me in helping solve—we had a confidence problem. See, we were in recession, and then the enemy hit us, and that hurt. And then we had some of our citizens forget what it means to be responsible. They thought they could fudge the numbers on these corporate ledgers. They thought they could hide the truth. They thought it was okay not to—you know, not to be responsible in their positions of authority. I proposed a bill—John supported me strongly on it—that now says to those kinds of people in America, "We're going to hold you responsible; you need to be responsible to your employees and your shareholders."

No, there's a lot of work we can do to make sure people get back to work. I'm not going to pay attention to the numbers; what I'm going to pay attention to is whether or not the human being is working. That's what I

care about. And so long as somebody is struggling for a job, you can rest assured we're going to be doing everything we can to grow our economy.

John and I have worked together on some other key issues, one of which is to make sure every child gets educated. We passed a really good piece of legislation. I want to describe it to you right quick because it shows you his mind, his philosophy. It says, we believe every child can learn. See, we believe we want to set high standards and high expectations. We're going to challenge what I call the soft bigotry of low expectations. And we also believe that the best way to achieve excellence for every child is to pass power out of Washington and trust the local folks. We believe in local control of schools.

But thanks to John's hard work, among others, we were able to get $1.7 billion of Federal money for the Illinois schools, and that's important. But also what's important is, for the first time, we're asking the question whether or not the money is being well-spent. It's a fundamental change in attitude coming out of Washington, DC. See, we now believe every child can learn. Therefore, we want to know if every child is learning to read and write and add and subtract. For the first time, we're saying, "Why don't you show us whether or not the schools are working? We want every child to learn. We can believe every child can learn, so show us." And when we find success, we'll praise the teachers. And I bet there some teachers here, and we want to thank you for your hard work. But when we find children trapped in schools which won't teach and which won't change, for the good of Illinois, for the good of America, we're going to demand something else happens, because no child should be left behind in America.

There's a lot of issues we can work on together. One of the big issues that we need to work on is to make sure the Medicare system works. Medicine has changed. Medicine is becoming modern. Technology is changing medicine. New discoveries are changing how we cure people. But Medicare is stuck in the past. See, medicine is changing for the better, and Medicare won't change at all. Therefore, I need somebody in Congress like John Shimkus who will join me in modernizing Medicare, which means prescription drug benefits for our seniors.

There's a lot of things we can do, working together, to make sure that America is a better place for everybody. But I need him in the Congress as well to work on the biggest issue which we face, which is to protect you. Homeland security is the biggest issue that this next Congress and Presidents down the road will face.

And the reason why I say that is because there's still an enemy out there which hates America. They just are. They can't stand—they cannot stand what we believe in. They hate the fact that we love freedom. We love the fact that in this great country you can worship an Almighty any way you see fit. We love that. We love the fact we have free elections, we have a free press. We love every single aspect of freedom, and we're not going to change.

And so long as that enemy is out there threatening the homeland, we need to protect you. And we've got a lot of good people working overtime to do so. We've got people at the Federal level and at the State level and at the local level, doing everything we can to run down any hint, any idea that somebody is thinking about hurting America—we're chasing it down. We're denying. We're disrupting. But I think we can do a better job on your behalf. And that's why I went to the United States Congress and asked them to join me in the creation of a new Department of Homeland Security, so we can better coordinate all the activities that are taking place at the Federal level, so we can change culture, if need be, so that people know that the number one priority is your protection, so there's no doubt in anybody's mind who are working on your behalf that this is the most important job we have.

Thanks to John and Members of the United States House of Representatives, we got a good bill. The problem is it's stuck in the United States Senate. It's stuck because they want to take away power from the President, and here's the power they want to take away. Presidents have had the ability, since John F. Kennedy was the President, to suspend collective bargaining rules in any Department of Government to make sure that when the national security is at stake—to

make sure that we're able to do our job. See, I need to be able to move the right people to the right place at the right time to protect you. Certain work rules prevent that from happening, and the Senate wants to keep those work rules in place.

To show you how shortsighted they are, as far as I'm concerned, I would have the ability to suspend certain rules in the Department of Agriculture. Yet at a time of war, I would not have that ability for the Homeland Security Department, and that doesn't make sense. And I'm here to tell you, I'm not going to accept a lousy bill out of the United States Senate. We can't let the special interests of Washington prevent us from doing what is necessary to protect the biggest interest we have, which is the American people.

But the best way to secure the homeland is to chase these killers down one at a time and bring them to justice. And therapy won't work. [*Laughter*] And we're making progress. See, I asked our Congress to support me on the biggest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I did so because anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best training, the best pay, and the best possible equipment.

We're also sending an important message to friend and foe alike: We're in this deal for the long haul. There's no quit in America when it comes to the defense of our freedom. We understand our obligations. We understand our duty to future generations of Americans. No matter how long it takes, no matter how long the—how much the cost, we will defend the freedoms of the United States of America.

We're making some pretty good progress. Slowly but surely, we're hauling them in. See, this is a different kind of battle we face. In the old days, you could destroy airplanes and ships and tanks, and you know you're making progress. These people don't have that kind of equipment. They hide in caves. They send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. Therefore, it's important to make sure that doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," still stands. And the doctrine still stands.

We've hauled in a couple of thousand of them, and like number weren't as lucky. In either case, in either category, they're not a problem to the American people. We're doing our job.

It's important for us to be realistic about the threats we face. Some would like to see the world the way they would hope it would be. You can't have that in your President or elected Members of Congress. You've got to see the world the way it really is. And after September the 11th, 2001, after September the 11th, 2001, the world changed. It used to be that oceans could protect us from harm. We're in a different world now. There's a new reality that we have to deal with. Some may not like it, but you've got to deal with it in order to do the most solemn job you have, which is to protect the American people.

The reason I brought up the threat from Iraq is because I understand the new realities. I see the world the way it is. Saddam Hussein is a threat to America. He's a threat to our friends. He's a man who said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, yet he has them. He's a man that not only has weapons of mass destruction; he's used them. He's used them in his neighborhood; he's used them on his own people. He can't stand America. He can't stand our friends and allies.

[*At this point, there was a disruption in the audience.*]

The President. He is a man who would likely team up with Al Qaida. He could provide the arsenal for one of these shadowy terrorist networks. He would love to use somebody else to attack us and not leave fingerprints behind.

So I went to the United Nations to say to that august body, "Why don't we join together and hold this man to account? Why don't we hold him to his word? Why don't you, instead of letting him defy you 16 times, why don't you hold Saddam Hussein to account and disarm him?" The United Nations can show us whether it's the United Nations or the League of Nations—their choice to make.

And Saddam Hussein now has a choice to make. He said he would disarm. He said he

wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. Now the time is coming close where he must do what he says he should do—is going to do. But I'm going to tell you all something. And the Congress spoke with one voice, loud and clear, that if the United Nations cannot fulfill its duty, if it doesn't have the backbone necessary to work together to keep the peace, and if Saddam Hussein will not disarm, in the name of peace and in the name of freedom, the United States will lead a coalition and disarm Saddam Hussein.

I don't know what was going through the mind of the enemy when they hit us. They must have thought the national religion of America was materialism. They must have thought we were so self-centered and so shallow and so self-absorbed that after the attacks of September the 11th, we might take a step back and file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They don't understand our character. They don't understand the nature of this country. They don't understand the fact that when somebody attacks us, when somebody tries to take away our freedom, that we're going to react, that we'll be strong and diligent and focused. They don't understand that out of the evil done to America can come some great good because of the nature of our country.

I want you to understand that my vision is one of peace. I want the world to be peaceful, and I strongly believe that by being tough when we need to be tough, compassionate when we need to be compassionate, strong when we need to be strong, that we can not only make America a more peaceful place, we can bring peace to the world.

And here at home, we can be a better America. And that's important, that while we work hard to make our country more secure and more safe, that we can be a better country. You've got to understand in this world, in America, people hurt; people are lonely; people are addicted; people need help. John Shimkus and I and others in Congress will work to pass laws to help. But you've got to remember that Government can hand out money, but it can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. Hurt can be healed when a loving America puts their arm around somebody and says, "I love you. What can I do to help you?" If you want to join the war against evil, love your neighbor like you'd like to be loved yourself.

You can help in any kind of way. You can mentor a child. You can make sure your school system works well. You can feed the hungry. You can run a Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop. There's all kinds of ways you can help. Today when I landed at your airport, I met the Swartz family, Larry, Linda, and Eric. They're involved with the Special Olympics. Eric is an athlete, and he's a spokesman for the Special Olympics. Larry volunteers as an assistant swim coach. Linda helps with the bowling tournaments. There are all kinds of ways. And they're here, by the way, with us. Where are the Swartzes? There they are. I'm honored you all are here. Thank you for coming.

There's all kinds of ways to help. You see, the spirit of America says that in order to be an American, you've got to serve something greater than yourself in life. Perhaps the best example came on Flight 93. These are average citizens flying across the country. They learned the airplane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They said good-bye to their loved ones. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." And they took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life.

The American spirit is strong and alive. The enemy had no idea who they were hitting. Out of the evil done to America, I promise you is going to happen, will be a more peaceful world. And out of the evil done to America will be a better country, a more hopeful country, a more optimistic country for every citizen who lives here, because this is the greatest nation, full of the most decent people on the face of the Earth.

I'm honored you're here. Thank you for coming. May God bless, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:50 a.m. at the Illinois Police Academy. In his remarks, he referred to Representative John Shimkus, candidate for reelection in Illinois' 20th Congressional District, and his wife, Karen; gubernatorial candidate Jim Ryan; senatorial candidate Jim Durkin; former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar and his wife, Brenda;

Representative Ray LaHood, candidate for reelection in Illinois' 18th Congressional District; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in St. Paul, Minnesota

November 3, 2002

The President. Thank you all. Glad I came. Norm said, "If you come back, we might have a few of my friends over to say hello." [*Laughter*]

I want you to know I understand that Minnesota is going through a traumatic time. After all, just 9 days ago, you lost a principled Senator, along with his wife and daughter and five other fellow Americans. Paul Wellstone was respected by all who worked with him. He'll be missed by all who knew him.

Now a vote is coming on, in the middle of a State that is mourning. And even though your State is still in mourning, I'm here to remind people from all political parties that you have a duty to vote. In spite of the fact that people still mourn, Republicans and Democrats, independents, people who could care less about political parties, have an obligation in the land of the free to go to the polls and exercise your right as an American.

Now, once you get in that voting booth, I've got a suggestion. [*Laughter*] The best candidate for the future of Minnesota is your next United States Senator, Norm Coleman.

The best choice for Governor of Minnesota, the best choice for the taxpayers and the schoolchildren, is Tim Pawlenty. And the best choice in a contested race in this part of the world, the best choice for United States Congress, is Mr. John Kline.

It's great for—great to be able to see Laurie Coleman today. She is working hard, along with Norm and their entire family. Proud to meet Mr. and Mrs. Coleman, too. Ms. Coleman said she's a little nervous. [*Laughter*] I said, "Well, you watch and see what happens next Tuesday."

Norm married above himself, and so did I. [*Laughter*] Yesterday Laura was here. I want to thank you for such a warm reception she received. I don't blame Norman for bringing her in coming down the stretch. After all, she's done a fabulous job as our country's First Lady.

I'm proud to be up here with three fine Members of the United States Congress: Gil Gutknecht, Mark Kennedy, and Jim Ramstad. I appreciate their service to our country. I appreciate the fact that they're friends. I appreciate the fact they're willing to run.

Most of all, I'm here to thank you all for what you have done and what you're going to do. Many of you have been working hard over the last months, weeks, and days to support the Coleman candidacy. You've been putting up signs. You've been dialing the phones. You've been sending the brochures in the mail. Don't stop. I will promise you this, when you go to your coffee shops or your community centers and urge your fellow Minnesota citizens to go to the polls, you can make a huge impact on this election. You can decide who your next United States Senator and Governor and Members of Congress will be.

And when you go to those coffee shops and community centers, make sure you reach out to discerning Democrats and independent voters. There are a lot of good people who may not call themselves Republicans, who've been impressed, like I have, with the nature of the campaign that Norm Coleman has run. There's a lot of people who may not be Republicans, who've been impressed by the quality of service he gave to the citizens of St. Paul as the mayor of St. Paul.

They know him like I know him, somebody who's willing to get rid of the stale, old, tired name-calling in politics, somebody who's not interested in pitting one group of people against another to get ahead, somebody who's willing to work hard to bring people together for the common good. That's the Norm Coleman I know.

When he held office, he showed what he could do. He performed. He's the kind of fellow who does in office what he says he's going to do. That's refreshing. After all, we are in the house that Norm built.

He kept taxes down. He brought more than $3 billion of new development into St. Paul. He performed in office. He did so with class. He did so with the one thing in mind: how to benefit all the people of St. Paul. He

understands that in order to create opportunity for all the citizens of this State, that the small-business owner and the entrepreneurs, the backbone of creativity and job growth, no matter where they are in this country—[*applause*].

Pat Boemer owns McGovern's Pub and Restaurant just down the street from here. He knows firsthand how Norm worked with small-business owners to cut the regulations that oftentimes make it hard for people to expand and/or exist. Norm understands the role of small businesses. Because of Norm's help, Pat was able to expand his restaurant, a project that employed 30 people during the expansion and added 35 new permanent jobs. Pat—let me tell you what Pat said about Norm Coleman: I want you to hear what one of your citizens said about this man. He said, "He's a breath of fresh air." And that's the kind of fresh air we need in the United States Senate.

Believe me when I say, we need fresh air in the United States Senate. The future of Minnesota rests with Norm Coleman. Not only do I like to promote somebody who is a good, honorable person; I'm looking for an ally. [*Laughter*] I want somebody from this great State with whom I can work, somebody with whom we can work to help all the people.

We've got some problems here in this country. See, our economy is kind of bumping along. It's not as strong as it should be. Anytime somebody is looking for a job and they can't find work means we've got a problem. And I'm not going to rest until people can find work, until people who want to put food on the table are able to do so.

But it's important to have somebody from this State who understands the role of Government is not to create wealth, but the role of Government is to create an environment in which small businesses can grow to be big businesses, in which this entrepreneurial spirit is strong.

There's a fundamental difference of attitudes in this race. See, Norm and I understand this, that when a person has more money in their pocket, they're likely to demand an additional good or a service. And when they demand a good or a service in the marketplace, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody is more likely to be able to find work.

I need the United States Senator from Minnesota who not only supports tax relief, but is willing to stand with me to make tax relief permanent.

Norm and I understand in Washington, when you hear them talking about the Government's money, they don't understand. See, we're not talking about the Government's money in Washington. It's important to have a Senator understand whose money it is. It's your money. It's the people's money.

I look forward to working with Norm on a lot of issues. We need to get a terrorism insurance bill out that gets our hardhats working again. The terrorists hit us, and as a result, a lot of projects aren't going forward because they can't find insurance. And therefore, a lot of hardhats aren't working. We need to get somebody in the Senate with whom I can work to make sure we get us a terrorism insurance bill that rewards the hardhats of America, not the trial lawyers of America.

I look forward to working with a Norm Coleman to make sure that Medicare works. See, we made a solemn promise to our seniors. The problem is, medicine has changed. It's becoming modern. Medicare is stuck in the past. There's a lot of new technologies that have helped health care become modern, new discoveries that have changed the nature of health care. But Medicare hasn't changed. I look forward to working with Senator Norm Coleman to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drugs for our seniors.

And let me give you another reason I need to work with him in the Senate. One of my most solemn obligations is to name good people to Federal benches. The Senate has done a lousy job. There are too many of my nominees that have been stalled, and therefore, we have a vacancy crisis on the Federal benches in America. And that hurts you. It hurts our citizens who need to have access to justice.

You see, they don't like my judges. They don't like the fact that I named good, honorable people who will not use the bench from

which to legislate but will use the bench to strictly interpret the Constitution. Norm and I understand we've got too many legislators in Washington. Let me say to you, we've got enough legislators in Washington. We need good, sound judges. I know I can count on his support when it comes to making sure the judiciary is strong and capable and not have any vacancies.

The biggest issue that Senator Coleman and I will be working on over the years is to protect you, is to protect the homeland, is to keep America safe from an enemy which still lurks out there, an enemy which hates because of what we love. We love freedom. We love the idea that people can worship freely in America. We love the idea that people can speak their minds. We love a free press, and we're not going to change.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. It's important to be cold-eyed realists about the world in which we live. We're on alert now in America. We understand the battlefield has come home. There's a lot of good people working on your behalf to deny the enemy. Anytime we get a hint, a scintilla of evidence, we're moving on it. That's our most important obligation.

We're doing it within the confines of the United States Constitution, but we're moving. We're disrupting. We're making sure people cannot get to the American people. We're doing everything we can. But I went to Congress because I think we can do more. And I asked them to join me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. I want a Department where I've got the ability to be able to turn to the American people and say, "I've got the tools necessary to protect you."

There's over 100 agencies involved with homeland security. It seemed like to me they need to be coordinated better. They need to be under one umbrella so we can set priority and, if need be, change culture. And the House of Representatives, thanks to the Members up here, passed a good bill.

It takes two Chambers to get the bill to my desk, however. The bill is stuck in the Senate. I want to explain to you why it's stuck in the Senate. It's stuck in the Senate because some Senators are trying to extract too high a price from the President. For 40 years, ever since John Kennedy has been the President, the President has had the ability to suspend collective bargaining rules in any Department of the Federal Government when the national security is at stake.

Let me tell you what that means. If a rule stands in the way of being able to better protect the homeland, I should be able to suspend that rule for national security purposes. The Senate, because of special interests in Washington, DC, refuses to—or are trying to strip me of that power. And if they were able to do so, I would have the ability to suspend some rules in, say, the Agricultural Department but not the Department of Homeland Security.

We're threat—we're under threats from an enemy which hates us, and yet they're trying to prevent me and future Presidents from being able to do the job. I need a Senator who will support me on homeland security. I refuse to accept a lousy bill from the U.S. Senate.

But the fact is—the fact of the matter is, we're going to do everything we can at home. But the best way to assure your freedom is to hunt these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. We're making progress.

First, I want to thank the Senate and the House for passing the largest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. I asked for that increase because I believe strongly, just like Norm Coleman believes strongly, that anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And the other reason I asked for that increase is because I wanted to send a signal to friend and foe alike, that when it comes to the defense of our freedom and the defense of our homeland, we're in this deal for the long haul.

There's not a calendar on my desk that says by such-and-such a date, we're quitting. That's not how I think. That's not how I know you think. You see, we understand our obligations to future generations. That's why I'm continuing to insist to people around the world: Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy.

And we're making progress. We're making progress, slowly but surely. We're finding them. We're hunting them down. It's a different kind of war, and it's important for you to know that. In the old days, you'd knock out a couple of tanks or shoot down an airplane or two, you're making progress. See, these folks, that's not the way they are. They hide in caves or in dark corners of the world and send youngsters to their suicidal deaths.

And so it's a different kind of war. It requires this network of people moving around, getting them on the run. Fortunately, we've got the finest military in the history of the world, and we've got them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run.

Norm knows what I know: It doesn't matter how long it takes; we have an obligation. It's important for us to be cold-eyed realists about the world. It's important to have a Senator and a President and people in Washington, DC, who see the world really the way it is, not the way we wish it would be.

And the world is changed after September the 11th. It's changed because we're no longer safe from potential threats overseas. It used to be that oceans could protect us. It used to be that we could sit back and say, "Well, we're a protected continent because of two vast oceans." We learned a tough lesson on September the 11th. We've got to remember that lesson as we go down the road. We must take every threat to the United States seriously. We must take threats to our friends seriously.

And there's a threat which looms in the form of Saddam Hussein. I want to remind you all that this is a man who for 11 years has said he wouldn't have any weapons of mass destruction, and for 11 years, he's deceived the world.

Audience member. Liar!

The President. And we found out that—a while ago that he was close to having a nuclear weapon. We don't know how close he is today. This is a man who not only has got chemical weapons; I want you to remind your friends and neighbors that he has used chemical weapons. He has used them in his neighborhood, and incredibly enough, he has used them on his own people.

This is a man who can't stand America. He can't stand what we believe in. This is a man who hates some of our closest friends in the Middle East.

This is a man who has had contacts with Al Qaida. This is a man who poses a serious threat in many forms, but catch this form: He's the kind of guy that would love nothing more than to train terrorists and provide arms to terrorists so they could attack his worst enemy and leave no fingerprints. This guy is a threat to the world.

I went to the United Nations because I wanted to tell this body, this august body, that I expect you to do your duty. For 16 resolutions, he's defied you. I went and said, "In the name of peace, show yourself to be effective. We want you to be an effective United Nations, not an ineffective organization like the League of Nations."

My message was to that body, I said, "Show some backbone. Disarm Saddam Hussein, just like he said he would do." But for the sake of peace and for the sake of freedom, the sake of fulfilling our obligations to future generations, if the United Nations can't act and won't act and if Saddam Hussein won't do what he said he would do, which is disarm, we will lead a coalition of nations to disarm Saddam Hussein.

I appreciate Norm Coleman's position. I appreciate the fact that he's a cold-eyed realist. I appreciate the fact that he sees the world the way it is, not the way we would hope it would be. I want you to know this about America, that if we stay tough, we stay strong, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace, not only for ourselves, but we can achieve peace in parts of the world which have quit on peace. We're determined. We speak clearly. If we remember our values and remember that freedom is not an America's gift to the world, it is a God gift to the world, we can achieve peace.

I don't know what was going through the mind of the enemy. They must have thought the national religion of America was materialism. Therefore, we're selfish and self-absorbed. We'd take a couple of steps back after September the 11th, 2001. * They probably said, "Oh, they'd file a lawsuit or two." [*Laughter*] They don't understand the nature of America. They don't understand the

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* White House correction.

American spirit. They don't understand American spirit. They don't understand our soul.

You see, out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. And part of that good is peace overseas, and part of that good here at home is a better tomorrow, a better America.

We must remember—and Norm understands this; that's why I'm passionate on his candidacy—he knows what I know, that amongst our plenty are people who hurt. There are people who are lonely, people addicted, people, when you say, "American Dream," they say, "What does that mean? I have no idea what the American Dream means," they say. Our attitude is, so long as any of us hurt, we all hurt, and therefore, Government must do everything it can to help. But Government is limited. See, it can hand out money, but it can't put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. That help—that happens when a fellow American puts their arm around somebody who's crying and says, "I love you, brother. I love you, sister. What can I do to make your life a better life?"

I met a guy today named John Ernston. He's volunteered 13,000 hours for the Hennepin County sheriff. He's been on what they call water patrol. He is a person trying to make a difference in somebody's life. He's volunteering his time to make his community a better place.

Talk about the American spirit, the American spirit says we'll be tough when it comes to the defense of our freedom. But the American spirit also says the new patriotism for our country means we'll serve something greater than ourself. The call to you so far as I'm concerned is: Help somebody in need; mentor a child; feed the hungry; love the homeless. And you watch what happens when the great compassion of America comes forth.

We can change this country one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. No, the American spirit is alive and well in this country. The enemy hit us; they didn't know who they were hitting.

I'm reminded of the story of Flight 93. Flight 93 was—on that fateful day, we had citizens flying across the country. They learned the plane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They said goodbye to their loved ones. History will show they said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves. The spirit of this country is alive and well and strong.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. I believe—I believe firmly that out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good. I will boldly predict that we can achieve the peace, and we can achieve a more hopeful tomorrow for every citizen who lives in this country, because I understand America. We're the finest nation, full of the greatest people on the face of this entire Earth.

I'm honored you're here. Work hard for Norm. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:32 p.m. at the Xcel Energy Center. In his remarks, he referred to senatorial candidate Norm Coleman, his wife, Laurie, and his parents, Norm Sr. and Beverly Coleman; gubernatorial candidate Tim Pawlenty; John Kline, candidate for Minnesota's Second Congressional District; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The President also referred to Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, who died in the October 25 crash of a twin engine King Air aircraft in Eveleth, MN.

Remarks in Sioux Falls, South Dakota

November 3, 2002

The President. Thank you for that warm welcome. It just seems like the other day I was here in South Dakota. [*Laughter*] You know, your Governor is a good buddy of mine. He's got pretty good judgment. He said, "If you think it was good in Aberdeen, if you think the crowd was great in Aberdeen, if you think the enthusiasm was high in Aberdeen, wait until you get to Sioux Falls."

We did have a great crowd in Aberdeen; about 300 or 400 people couldn't get in the hall. [*Laughter*] A lot of them came down from Aberdeen tonight to be at this rally, and I want to thank you all for coming down. I want to thank you for your work. And right

after I finish speaking, you get home and turn out the vote.

Laura and I are here because the people of this important State have got some big decisions to make. You've got some decisions to make that will affect not only your State but our Nation. You've got some decisions that will make the future of this State and the future of our Nation different. And we've got some suggestions on what you ought to do when you get inside that voting booth.

We believe it's in the best interests of South Dakota and the best interests of America to elect John Thune to the United States Senate.

Audience members. John Thune! John Thune! John Thune!

The President. John is a wise man. He had Laura campaigning with him all day. And so the second reason I've come here is because I thought it would be wise to hook up with Laura the day before her birthday.

[*At this point, the audience sang "Happy Birthday."*]

The President. Honey, that's your birthday gift.

I'm also here because I'm seeking some allies, some people I can count on, some people who represent the good folks of this State. You've got a man running for the United States Congress who I call friend, because he is one, a man who understands this State well, a man who's served with distinction as your Governor, a man who will be a great United States Congressman. I hope you work hard and put Bill Janklow in the House of Representatives.

Audience members. We want Bill! We want Bill! We want Bill!

The President. I one time in this State described him as a "piece of work"—[*laughter*]—but he's your piece of work.

I'm also proud to be here with a man who will be good for the South Dakota taxpayers, the South Dakota schoolchildren, a man who's going to do a great job as your Governor, Mr. Mike Rounds.

Audience members. We like Mike! We like Mike! We like Mike!

The President. I'm also here to thank you for what you have done on behalf of these candidates but, more importantly, what you're going to do. See, over the next 2 days, they're counting on you to turn out the vote.

They're counting on you starting tomorrow morning when you go to your coffee shops—and they've got some coffee shops here in South Dakota, I'm certain of that—[*laughter*]—sit around those tables and remind the people they have a duty in America to vote. You have an obligation as a citizen of this country to go to the polls. And as grassroots activists and as concerned citizens, remind them that with Thune and Janklow and Rounds, you've got some fine, fine people, that it's in the interests of this State—and just don't talk to Republicans, either. Run across an independent, they care about low taxes and good Government. And so do discerning Democrats.

No, they're counting on you. They've worked hard to earn your respect and your support, and you can make a difference come Tuesday. You can make a difference by getting people to the polls. You can make a difference by getting on those telephones. Everybody counts in this election, and we're counting on you to pull them across the finish line.

No, we're here because we want to, for this good State, to send people to Washington with whom I can work, people whose vote I can count on for the good of the country. But I'm also here because I believe in John Thune, the person. I believe in those South Dakota values which are deeply ingrained in his heart. I know how he was raised. He was raised by folks who loved him, and they brought some common sense to him.

Most importantly, he's never forgot where he came from. See, he was raised to believe in the value of family. He understands the importance of family. He's got a great family, Kimberley and Brittany and Larissa. When they came up to the White House to talk about making this race, John talked about his family with passion. See, he's not one of these types that puts politics ahead of his family. He keeps his priorities straight. I like that in the future United States Senator.

He was raised with that important South Dakota value that says education is important. You believe that in this State, and he does in his heart. Thanks to his hard work,

he helped secure $185 million coming to the Federal schools this year—Federal money coming to your schools this year.

But also thanks to his hard work and his belief in education, we worked together to pass a really fine piece of reform, education reform. It says everybody can learn. It says we've got to raise the standards and raise the bar. It says we trust the people of South Dakota to chart the path for excellence for the children who live in South Dakota; we believe in local control of schools. But it also says for the first time, in return for that money, show us whether or not our children can read and write and add and subtract. If you believe every child can read and write and add and subtract, you need to ask that question. And when you find children in schools that are learning, we'll praise the teachers. But when you find children trapped in schools which will not teach and will not change, you need to demand something other than the status quo. No child should be left behind in the State of South Dakota.

John Thune understands and was raised with the value that you're supposed to keep your word. And we've given our word to the seniors in America that Medicare will work. And yet it's not working, because medicine has changed, and Medicare hasn't. Medicine is modern. Medicare is stuck in the past. I look forward to working with soon-to-be Senator John Thune to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drugs for our seniors.

John Thune was raised to understand the value of the land. He understands farmers. He understands ranchers. He understands for the farmer and rancher, every day is Earth Day. He understands—he was raised on the value of hard work and that if you work hard, you should be able to get ahead in life. And that's why he was one of the strong supporters of mine in the United States Congress to reduce the taxes on the working people.

He knows what I know. He knows what I know, if people are having trouble finding work, the best way to increase jobs in America is to cut the taxes on the people who pay the bills. The more money you have in your pocket, the more you're going to demand something. And when you demand it, somebody is going to provide it, and when somebody provides it, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax relief came at the right time. And you better have you a United States Senator who is willing to join President Bush and make the tax cuts permanent.

John also was raised by folks who said a person gets—has a grievance, they ought to have a fair chance in the courts, that justice is important in America.

But the Senate is doing a lousy job with my Federal judicial nominees, to the point where there is a vacancy problem in America. Too many of our benches are—have got vacancies. Not enough of my Federal judges are getting through the United States Senate. They're playing politics with the nominees. In some cases, they're distorting the records. They don't like the fact that I'm naming good, honorable people whose job it is not to write law but to strictly interpret the United States Constitution.

There's no question in my mind that when it comes to making sure our benches are full of good and decent people, I can count on the support of Senator John Thune. And there should be no question in your mind, the judges I name will represent the values of the majority of citizens from South Dakota.

And finally, one of the values that I know John holds dear to his heart is the value that his World War II fighter pilot daddy taught him. And that is, sometimes you have to sacrifice for freedom; sometimes it's important to serve something greater than yourself to secure the freedom. And that means in the 21st century that we've got to sacrifice here in America to protect ourselves.

The most important responsibility John and I will have will be to work together to protect the homeland, to protect you from further attack, to prevent an enemy which hates America because we love freedom from hurting innocent life ever again.

There's a lot of good people working for you right now—the Federal level and the State level and the local level, a lot of really decent people are running down any hint. Anytime anybody kind of whispers that they may be thinking about doing something to America, you need to know we're moving on it. We're going to disrupt them and deny

them any chance they have to hurt the American people.

But in order to make our job go better—and, by the way, this isn't just something that's going to take place next year. We've been protecting the homeland for awhile. They're out there, and it's going to take awhile for us to rout them out. And therefore, I thought that it would be best to have a Department of Homeland Security so we could better coordinate the agencies involved with your protection, so we could change cultures if need be, so people got the message, their number one job in Washington is to protect you.

And I got a good bill out of the House of Representatives, thanks to John Thune. However, it is stuck in the United States Senate. And let me describe to you why it's stuck in the Senate. Because some Senators——

Audience member. Tom Daschle.

The President. Some Senators—[*laughter*]—because some Senators are trying to take power away from the President—a power that every President has had since John F. Kennedy was the President. And that is the capacity to suspend collective bargaining rules in any Department of the Federal Government when national security is at stake.

In other words, if there are some work rules that stand in the way of us being able to protect the American people, for the sake of national security, I now have the right to suspend those rules for your protection. But because of special interests in Washington, some Senators are trying to take away this power. And I'm not going to let them. I refuse to stand for a lousy bill.

But the best way to secure our homeland is to chase these killers down, one person at a time, and bring them to justice. It's a different kind of war we fight. It's important for you to understand that. John understands that. You see, in the old days, if you destroyed tanks and airplanes, you knew you were making progress. These killers are hiding in caves. They send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. The only way to deal with them is to treat them like they are, international criminals, and hunt them down, one person at a time.

I went to the Congress and said, "Why don't you give me a defense bill that shows our mettle, that speaks clearly about our intentions?" Thankfully, they did. They passed the largest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President. And here's the message, the message that John Thune was taught by his daddy: Anytime you put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And the other message is this: It doesn't matter how long it takes to secure our freedom; it doesn't matter how long it takes to secure the homeland, we're staying the course. There's no quit in America. There's not a calendar on my desk that says on such-and-such a date, bring them home. That's not how we think. That's not the lesson that John Thune learned from his dad or I learned from my dad or any of us learned from previous generations of people who sacrificed for our freedom.

No, we've been called into action, and we're making progress. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling the terrorist network which attacked America. Slowly but surely, we're hauling them in. See, that doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," it still stands. And there's a lot of people joining us in this international manhunt to bring them to justice.

What's important for us as we work to secure the homeland is to remember the stakes have changed. After September the 11th, the world changed. It changed for a lot of reasons. Perhaps the most profound reason, from a foreign policy perspective or from a homeland security perspective, is that we're no longer protected by two big oceans. Used to be if there was a threat overseas, we could deal with it if we chose to do so, but we didn't have to worry about something happening here at home. It used to be oceans could protect us from conflict and from threats. But that's changed, and it's important to have people in the Senate who are clear-eyed realists. It's important to have people who see the world the way it is, not the way we hope it is. And the world is a dangerous place, particularly with people like Saddam Hussein in power.

Saddam Hussein is a man who told the world he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, but he's got them. He's a man a while ago who was close to having a nuclear weapon. Imagine if this madman had a nuclear weapon. It's a man who not only has chemical weapons, but he's used chemical weapons. He's used chemical weapons against some of his neighbors. He used chemical weapons, incredibly enough, against his own people. He can't stand America. He can't stand some of our closest friends.

And not only that, he is—would like nothing better than to hook up with one of these shadowy terrorist networks like Al Qaida, provide some weapons and training to them, let them come and do his dirty work, and we wouldn't be able to see his fingerprints on his action.

No, he's a threat. And that's why I went to the United Nations. I went to the United Nations because—I said to that august body, "You need to hold this man to account. For 11 years, in resolution after resolution after resolution, he's defied you. For the sake of keeping the peace, we want you to be effective. For the sake of keeping the world free, we want you to be an effective body. It's up to you, however. You can show the world whether you've got the backbone necessary to enforce your edicts or whether you're going to turn out to be just like the League of Nations—your choice to make."

And my message to Saddam Hussein is that, for the sake of peace, for the sake of freedom, you must disarm like you said you would do. But my message to you all and to the country is this: For the sake of our future freedoms and for the sake of world peace, if the United Nations can't act and if Saddam Hussein won't act, the United States will lead a coalition of nations to disarm Saddam Hussein.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. And that's the lesson John learned from his daddy, that this country sometimes must act and act decisively in the name of freedom and peace in order to keep the peace, that when we see a gathering threat, we shouldn't shirk our duty and responsibility, but we must deal with it.

I want you to know that out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good. I truly believe that. I believe by being firm and strong, we can keep the peace. I know that if we remember our values, remember that freedom is not America's gift to the world; freedom is a God-given gift to the world—if we remember that values—we remember our uniqueness and the values we hold dear, we can bring peace, and that's going to happen.

And here at home, we'll have a better America too—a better America. Out of the evil done to this country is going to come a society which is more hopeful. See, you and I know that amongst our plenty, there are people who hurt. There are people who are hopeless, addicted, people who wonder if there is such a thing as love, people when you say, "Gosh, the American Dream applies to you," they don't have any idea what you're talking about. My attitude is—and I know John shares this with me—anytime any of hurt, we all hurt. Anytime somebody suffers, society suffers.

And Government can help. We'll work on Medicare and health issues and education issues. But we've got to remember the limitations of Government. While Government can hand out money, it can't put hope in people's hearts; it can't put a sense of purpose in people's lives.

The best way to help people who hurt is to encourage our fellow American to put their arm around somebody in need and say, "I love you, brother. I love you, sister." We can help in all kinds of ways.

Today, Rick Huffman came out to the airport. Rick, stand up. I know—[*applause*]. I appreciate you coming. Let me tell you why I'm introducing Rick, because he understands society can change one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time. See, Rick is a mentor with Big Brothers and Big Sisters right here in Sioux Falls. Rick is doing his part. Rick is—and there's his little brother. Yes, sir. There is a young man who is headed for college. I can see it, as sure as I'm standing here. Rick is going to help him work hard, and he's going to go to college and realize the greatness of this country.

And Rick is what I'm talking about. See, all of us can be a soldier in the army of compassion here in America. Many of you are, and I want to thank you for what you're doing.

No, out of the evil done to this country is going to come some great good. And the American spirit is strong and alive. It's a spirit that says, when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, we'll defend them. It also says that being a patriot means you serve something greater than yourself.

Flight 93 comes to mind when I'm thinking about the American spirit. Citizens were flying across the country on that fateful day. They heard the airplane was going to be used as a weapon. They realized this plane was going to crash into the ground and kill. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life. The American spirit is strong and alive in America today.

It is alive and well because of values such as those South Dakota values. It is alive and well. It allows me to boldly predict that out of the evil done to America will come peace in the world and a better, more hopeful America here at home.

And I can say that with certainty, because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest people on the face of this Earth. I'm honored you'd be here tonight. Thank you for supporting John. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 7:25 p.m. at the Sioux Falls Convention Center. In his remarks, he referred to Representative John R. Thune, senatorial candidate, his wife, Kimberley, and their daughters, Brittany and Larissa; Gov. Bill Janklow of South Dakota, candidate for Representative At Large from South Dakota; gubernatorial candidate Mike Rounds; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Statement on Signing the 21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act

November 2, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 2215, entitled the "21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act." The Act grants and amends statutory authorities relating to Federal law enforcement activities and authorizes appropriations for the Department of Justice.

Section 202 of the Act adds a new section 530D to title 28, United States Code, that purports to impose on the executive branch substantial obligations for reporting to the Congress activities of the Department of Justice involving challenges to or nonenforcement of law that conflicts with the Constitution. The executive branch shall construe section 530D of title 28, and related provisions in section 202 of the Act, in a manner consistent with the constitutional authorities of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch and to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties. To implement section 202(b)(3) of the Act, the Attorney General, on my behalf, shall advise the heads of executive agencies of the enactment of section 202 and of this direction concerning construction of that section and section 530D of title 28. Furthermore, section 202(a) requires that the President report to the Congress the issuance of any "unclassified Executive Order or similar memorandum or order" that establishes or implements a policy of intra-circuit non-acquiescence or of refraining from enforcing, applying, or administering a Federal statute, rule, regulation, program, or policy on the ground that it is unconstitutional. Based upon the text and structure of this section, the executive branch shall construe this reporting obligation to cover only unclassified orders in writing that are officially promulgated and are not included in the reports of the Attorney General or other Federal officers to whom this section applies.

Section 205(b) of the Act amends section 1913 of title 18, United States Code, relating to use of Federal appropriated funds for certain advocacy activities. Section 1913, as amended, does not prohibit the making of any communication whose prohibition by section 1913 "might, in the opinion of the Attorney General, violate the Constitution or interfere with the conduct of foreign policy,

counter-intelligence, intelligence, or national security activities." This provision will accordingly be interpreted to avoid applications that might violate the Constitution or interfere with foreign policy and other functions. Further, the executive branch shall construe section 1913 as amended in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, to supervise the unitary executive branch, and to recommend to the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President shall judge necessary and expedient. Finally, section 1913 states that "violations of this section shall constitute violations of section 1352(a) of title 31." The only reasonable construction of this statutory language is that it makes applicable the penalties set forth in section 1352(a) to violations of section 1913, and the executive branch shall construe this provision accordingly.

Provisions in the Act, including sections 207(d), 309, and 11025(a), purport to require executive branch officials to submit to the Congress plans for internal executive branch activities or recommendations relating to legislation. The executive branch shall construe such provisions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authorities to supervise the unitary executive branch and to recommend for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President judges necessary and expedient.

Section 402 of the Act adds sections 2002 and 2004 to the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, which purport to give "final authority" to a subordinate of the Attorney General over certain grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts awarded by the subordinate's office and to allow the Attorney General to act on behalf of the President to give the subordinate a role representing the U.S. Government at the United Nations and other international fora. The executive branch shall construe sections 2002 and 2004 in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authorities to supervise the unitary executive branch and to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs and, subject to those authorities, with the Secretary of State's authority pursuant to 22 U.S.C. section 2672.

Section 2301(c) of the Act requires the Attorney General to "devise a plan to implement recommendations of the General Accounting Office to" accomplish goals specified in the statute. Consistent with the principles enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1983 in *INS v. Chadha*, the executive branch shall construe section 2301(c) as referring only to recommendations of the GAO in existence at the time of enactment of the Act and as requiring the devising of a plan and submission of a report on the plan, but not implementation of the plan.

Section 2303(b) purports to give the Comptroller General, a legislative agent, a right of access to all relevant documents and information that the Comptroller General deems necessary in conducting a study required by the Act. The executive branch shall construe section 2303(b) in a manner consistent with the constitutional authorities of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch and to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties.

Section 2504 purports to require the Attorney General to conduct a prosecutor exchange program with a foreign country. The executive branch shall construe section 2504 in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authorities to conduct the Nation's foreign affairs, participate in international negotiations, and supervise the unitary executive branch.

Section 11015 of the Act purports to give U.S. Attorneys in certain circumstances "exclusive authority" to select an annuity broker for structured settlement purposes. The executive branch shall construe this section in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch.

Section 11026(c) of the Act purports to require all Federal law enforcement agencies to comply with requests from the General Accounting Office for certain information in the course of GAO preparation of a report on crime statistics. The executive branch shall construe section 11026(c) in a manner consistent with the constitutional authorities

of the President to supervise the unitary executive branch and to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, the national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, or the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 2, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 2215, approved November 2, was assigned Public Law No. 107–273. This statement was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 4.

Remarks in Cedar Rapids, Iowa

November 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all. So I couldn't think of a better place to roll over in my bed and—[*laughter*]—and say to Laura, "Happy birthday." Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is a great place. I want to thank you all for coming. Old Jim Leach said, "If you come by, we may be able to get a couple of our friends over early in the morning before election day." I said, "All right, I'll come." [*Laughter*] He's always understated things. [*Laughter*]

I really do appreciate coming out so early in the morning. It shows your concern for our democracy. Laura and I are working our way home. I'll be voting in Crawford, Texas, tomorrow morning, and so will she. I'm not undecided. [*Laughter*] And I'm not undecided about what's best for Iowa, either. I'm here to urge the good folks of Iowa from all political parties to vote. See, we have a duty as Americans to support our democracy. We have an obligation as citizens of this free land to exercise our right to express ourselves in the voting booths. We have that obligation. I don't care whether you're a Republican or a Democrat or could care less about political party, you have an obligation to America. Part of the American spirit is the participation by our citizens.

But when you get in that voting booth here in Iowa, I've got some suggestions for you. Jim Leach is the right man for the United States Congress. Doug Gross is the right man to be your Governor. Greg Ganske is the right man to represent you in the United States Senate.

We've got two other candidates—three other candidates here today, running for Congress, a good man named Jim Nussle, Tom Latham and Stan Thompson. They're all running, and they're good folks, good, honorable folks.

So I want to thank you all for coming. I particularly want to say thanks to the senior Senator from Iowa, Mr. Chuck Grassley. I remember traveling the State with Chuck. He knows everybody. [*Laughter*] We're driving along, he says, "That's where the old Jones house is." He said, "I shook their hand 10 years ago." [*Laughter*] He not only does a great job here in Iowa; he does a fantastic job in Washington, DC. And it makes sense to send another Senator up there with whom he can work and with whom I can work, and that Senator is Greg Ganske.

Ganske is leading a lot of issues. He's leading on these medical issues that are going to make a big difference in people's lives. He's for Patients' Bill of Rights. He's for modernizing Medicare. He wants to make sure the Iowa seniors are treated fairly. He's a doctor. He's a compassionate soul. He's the kind of person with whom I can work. And there's a lot of issues I need to work on in the United States Senate.

Perhaps one of the most crucial issues is the judiciary. It's a defining issue, as far as I'm concerned. It's a fundamental issue, and we've got a problem because the leadership in the Senate has done a lousy job with my nominees. And the problem is, there's a vacancy gap in America. There's a problem on the bench. We can't get our nominees through the Senate. They're playing needless politics with them. And in some cases, they're distorting their records. They don't like my nominees because I'm putting good, honorable people up there who will not use the bench from which to legislate but will use the bench to strictly interpret the United States Constitution.

I know I can count on Greg, just like I've been counting on Chuck Grassley's support. I hope you send him to the Senate. It's in the best interest of this State; it's in the best

interest of our country that Greg Ganske represent us in Washington, DC.

Congressional District 1 is represented by Jim Nussle. He's the chairman of the Budget Committee. I can't imagine anybody in their right mind getting rid of a chairman. It doesn't make any sense. Maybe I'm missing something when some Iowa citizens say it makes sense to get rid of powerful chairmen. That's not the politics I remember. It seems like to me that when you've got somebody in an important position that could help their district and help their State, you want to keep them there, particularly somebody like Nussle, who is doing a fantastic job.

See, Jim and I understand this. We're not spending the Government's money in Washington, DC. As the chairman of the Budget Committee, it's important to have somebody who understands, it's the people's money we spend. And we better have people watch the people's money. Nussle is a good man who deserves to be reelected to the United States Congress.

And then there's Tom Latham, out of the Fourth Congressional District. I know him well. I've worked closely with him on a lot key issues related to the citizens of Iowa. He's been strong about making sure our communities are drug-free and are safe. He understands that, like the other Members up here, we got to work together to keep the commitments of Social Security. He's the right man for Congressional District 4. He's done a fantastic job in the past. There's no doubt in my mind he'll continue that tradition of excellence. Tom Latham deserves to be reelected to the United States Congress.

Stan Thompson is running from the Third. He's with us today. Stan is a good, young, bright star of the Republican Party. He's got him an uphill climb. He's got a tough race. I walked on the stage; he looked me right in the eye; and he said, "Mr. President, if we turn out the vote, I'm going to the United States Congress." And I appreciate you being here, Stan. I'm honored that you're here. I appreciate the fact that you're running. And I'm going to take you for—your word for it. I look forward to working with you.

And then from the Fifth Congressional District is Steve King, State Senator Steve King. Nothing—you can't take anything for granted in politics, but I'll bet—well, I shouldn't bet anything. [*Laughter*] I'm looking forward—let me put it to you this way: I'm looking forward to working with the man in the United States Congress. He's run a great campaign. I appreciate him coming.

One thing I certainly know something about is what it takes to be a good Governor. I understand the role of Governor in a State. The Governor must set some priorities. You can't try to be all things to all people—can't try to promise everybody everything with the people's money; otherwise, you can't control your budget. You got to have the courage to set priority. Doug Gross knows how to do that. He understands how to set clear priorities so that your money isn't wasted, so that your money is focused, so you don't have these kind of endless budget crises that you try to blame on somebody else. You need somebody who can manage the budget as your Governor.

You also got to have somebody who will set education as the number one priority. Iowa's got a good reputation in its schools. Better make sure you got a Governor who keeps that reputation strong by challenging the status quo when it needs to be challenged, by praising teachers when you find excellence. But demanding excellence for every single child in Iowa is absolutely essential with your next Governor. You've got to have a Governor who is not beholden to the special interests that tend to capture the statehouses. You've got to have a Governor, when it comes to education, who's got one interest in mind. And that's the schoolchildren and their parents of the State of Iowa. And that person is Doug Gross. He'll make you a fine Governor for the State of Iowa. I look forward to working with him.

No, I appreciate all the grassroots activists who are here, the party chairman, Chuck, and all the people who are working hard to turn out the vote, all the people who are manning the phones and putting up the signs. See, these elections, they're kind of tight. And a tight election means you can have a tremendous influence on who wins. So Laura and I are here today to thank you for what you have done, and more importantly, thank you for what you're going to do, today and tomorrow, to get people to the

polls, to turn them out, to not only encourage them to vote but encourage them to vote for the right person.

And don't be afraid to—talking to Democrats. There's some discerning Democrats who know the difference between lousy Government and good Government, and they want good Government. Make sure you find those independent souls who are looking for good, honorable people.

And there's nobody more honorable in this race than Jim Leach. He's a breath of fresh air in Washington, DC. He's so honest, he squeaks. [*Laughter*] He's an independent thinker. But when he thinks, he's profound in thought. He's not the typical person that you think would be in politics. I can't imagine anybody in their right mind in Congressional District 2 putting this man out of office. I don't understand the thinking. Not only do I not understand the thinking about why you would turn back somebody who is full of integrity and decency and courage of his convictions but also turn back another chairman. This man has worked hard in the Congress to build up—put himself in a position where he can influence policy in a positive way. He's the kind of man you want representing you in Congress because you can turn to your kids and say, "I'm proud of Jim Leach. I'm proud of how he handles himself."

And so I hope you go turn out that vote in this Congressional District 2. It's important. And when he wins, you can take great satisfaction in knowing you had a big hand in influencing the outcome of this election.

And there's some reasons why I'm here. I want some allies in Congress to work with on key issues. Not only am I here because I understand the character of the people that are represented on this stage, but we've got some key issues ahead of us. Of course, we've got a—our economy is kind of bumping along. It's not as strong as it should be. It's bumping and bumping. And therefore, some people can't find work, and when they can't find work, it says to me we got a problem. The best way to help people find work—and this is a fundamental difference of philosophy—is to let people keep more of their own money.

See, when you have more money in your pocket, when more of your own money—I want you to remember this fundamental economic fact, that when you've got more money in your own pocket, you're likely to demand a good or a service. And when you demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, somebody in Iowa or somebody around America is more likely to find work. The best way to encourage job growth is to let you keep your own money. And therefore, I need people in the Senate and the House of Representatives who will make the tax cuts permanent.

I don't know what they're saying here in these campaigns, but I'm beginning to hear that echo around the country that says, "Well, we might ought to revisit the tax relief." That's code word; that's Washington, DC, speak for, "I'm fixing to get back into your pocket." The worst thing for economic vitality and jobs is to increase your taxes. And these Members up here on the stage are going to work with me to make sure that the tax relief is permanent and real, and you can plan on it.

Good economic policy means good farm policy. And I look forward to working with these Members on good farm policy. We took a step toward good farm policy by opening up markets for Iowa growers. Iowa farmers are the best in the world. They're the most productive in the world. And if you're the best in the world, you want to have a chance to sell your product all around the world. And I want to thank these Members up here, all the Members of Congress—and Ganske, soon to be in the Senate; of course, Chuck Grassley—for joining together to grant the President the capacity to open up markets for Iowa farmers. It's important to do that.

It's also important to continue to promote ethanol, which I will do, and work with these Members to promote ethanol. And there's another cutting-edge issue when it comes to farmers, people who own the land, and that's the death tax. See, people talking about the family farm—a lot of people have to give up their farms prematurely in order to pay the Government twice. First pay them if they ever make any money. Then they pay them on the value of their assets when they die.

It's bad for farmers. It's bad for the agriculture community. The death tax is running too many people off their farms too early. The death tax is bad for small-business owners who want to leave their assets to somebody they choose, not to the Federal Government. A key issue in this campaign is, are we going to get rid of the death tax once and for all? I'm for it. These Members are for it, and you should be for it.

I'm looking forward to working with these folks on good education policy. Thanks to the Members up here, we're sending a record amount of Federal money back to Iowa schools. And I want to thank them for that help. I want to thank Leach and Nussle and Latham and Greg Ganske and Chuck Grassley for working hard on behalf of the citizens of this State. But I want you to remember, for the first time in our State's history—our country's history and your State's history—we're saying, "We want something in return for the money." See, we're going to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. We believe every child can learn. We're going to set high standards. We believe in local control of schools. But in return for excess—additional Federal money, we want us to—we want you to show us and to show everybody else whether or not every child in this State is learning. And when they are, we'll praise the teachers. But we refuse to accept schools which won't teach and won't change. No child should be left behind in the State of Iowa.

I look forward to working with these Members for good health policy. Make no mistake about it, they're leading the charge in the House of Representatives and in the Senate to make sure that the Medicare system works. Oh, the others talk a good game, but they haven't delivered. The House of Representatives, controlled—led by Denny Hastert, passed a prescription drug benefit, and yet it can't get out of the Senate. There's a lot of good talkers in Washington. We need doers.

The Medicare issue is an important issue. It's an important issue for Iowa for two reasons: One, the formulas need to be fair for the Iowa citizens, and these Members are working to make the formulas fair; and secondly, medicine has changed. Medicine is modern. Things have changed in the medical world. Technology has changed. There's new discoveries which make it easier for people to become healthy. And yet, Medicare is stuck in the past. Medicare hasn't changed. It's been so politically driven, nothing can get done. These Members can get it unstuck. They can help me modernize Medicare, which means prescription drug benefits for our senior citizens.

And finally, I look forward to working with these Members, and it's—up there on the biggest issue we face, which is your protection. See, that's the number one issue. So long as there's an enemy out there lurking around, our biggest responsibility is to protect our homeland; it's to do everything we can to protect innocent life from nothing but a bunch of coldblooded killers, people who hate us because of what we love. See, we love freedom. We love the idea that people can worship freely in America. We love the fact people can speak their mind. We love a free press. We love every aspect about freedom, and we're not changing.

They're out there, and they're out there moving around. But we got the message, and therefore, there's a lot of good people working hard to protect you. Anytime we get any lead, any hint of evidence that somebody might be thinking about doing something, we're moving on it. We're disrupting. We're denying. We're working long hours to protect the American people. And that's the way it should be.

But we can do a better job. That's why I asked the Congress to join me in the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, where we can get all the—bunch up these people that are involved with your protection into one agency, so there's one culture, one priority, and that's your protection; so that the good people at the Federal level understand what the new rules are—the rules of the game in our world. And the rules are, we got to do everything we can to protect you. It's changed. The nature of our life has changed, and we've got to change with it.

The House of Representatives, thanks to the Members up here, voted a good piece of legislation out, which I can say will give me the capacity to be able to manage this organization and protect you. The bill is stuck

in the Senate because the Senate wants me to give up power that Presidents have had for 40 years. And that power is the capacity for a President to suspend some collective bargaining rules for the sake of national security.

In other words, if there are rules involved that prevent me from putting the right people at the right place at the right time for your protection, I ought to be able to suspend those rules. I ought to be able to do what it takes to protect you. But the Senate has a lousy version. They're more interested in special interests, which dominate the dialog in Washington, DC, than they are in protecting the American people. I refuse to accept a lousy bill, and I need Senators like Grassley and Ganske to support the creation of a Department of Homeland Security which will work.

Now, there's a good, honest debate on this issue. But we can't have a big, thick of bureaucratic rules preventing this President and future Presidents from doing whatever it takes to keep the homeland secure. The best way to secure this homeland is to stay on the hunt, to get this enemy on the run, and to bring them to justice, which is exactly what this country is going to do.

You got to understand, it's a different kind of war. In the old days, we blew up tanks and airplanes, and everybody said, "Well, they're making progress." These folks we're after hide in caves. They send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. They don't value life like we do. See, in this country, we say, "Everybody matters. Everybody is precious. Everybody counts. Every life counts." These people are willing to take innocent life in the name of a great religion.

Not only do I want you to remember September the 11th, but I want you to think about Indonesia and the attack on our marines in Kuwait, the attack on a French freighter. I mean, they're out there. And the only way to deal with them—and by the way, I've come to the conclusion, and I hope you have, that therapy is not going to work. [*Laughter*] So we're chasing them down. We're chasing them down. We're making good progress. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling that terrorist network.

I went to the Congress and asked for the biggest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was President. I want to thank the Members up here for their support. No question where they stand. No question where they—they believe that I believe that anytime we put our troops into harm's way, these youngsters deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And also, our message is real firm to friend and foe, alike: It doesn't matter how long it takes to defend freedom; we're going to defend freedom. It just doesn't matter. There's not a calendar on my desk in the Oval Office that says, such-and-such a date, we're quitting. That's not how I think. That's not how these Members think. See, history has called us into action. We have an obligation to future generations of Americans, and we're not going to forsake that obligation. And it doesn't matter how long it takes. It doesn't matter how deep the cave. The United States of America, with a great United States military and a strong alliance for freedom, will work hard all of the time to protect the homeland and protect our freedoms.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. It's important—it is important for us to be realistic about the threats to our country. Times have changed. Used to be, oceans could protect us, and therefore, we could see a gathering threat and maybe deal with it or maybe not. Used to be, we could be quite confident in our capacity to protect our homeland because we never thought an enemy could make it to our shore. And we learned a tough lesson. We did. And therefore, it's important for all of us in elective office to be clear-eyed about the threats we face, to see the world exactly the way it is, not the way we wish it would be. In order to protect America from current threats and future threats, we've got to be cold-eyed realists, and that's why I brought up the issue of Saddam Hussein.

See, I view him as a serious threat to America. I see him as a threat to our country because I understand his hatred toward America and, equally important, his hatred toward our friends in the Middle East. This

is a man who has deceived the world for 11 long years. He said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. He's got them. We know for a fact he was close to having a nuclear weapon at one time. We don't know how close he is today because he has stiff-armed the United Nations.

We not only know he's got chemical weapons, but incredibly enough he's used chemical weapons. He's used them in his neighborhood; he's used them on his own people. This is a man who has got terrorist connections, who would like nothing more than to provide—be the arsenal and the training grounds for these coldblooded killers. And they could attack us, and he would leave no fingerprints behind. He's a threat.

I went to the United Nations, I want to assure you, because I want the United Nations to be effective. I want it to work. I want this collection of body—this body of countries to work together to make the country free, to promote the peace. The United Nations can be effective. But for 11 years and 16 resolutions, this man has defied the United Nations. It's an historic moment, as far as I'm concerned, for the U.N. They can show the world whether or not they can work together to keep the peace, whether they be the United Nations, or whether they'll be the League of Nations, an ineffective debating society. And the choice is theirs.

And the choice is Saddam Hussein's as well. For the sake of peace, he must disarm. He said he would disarm. But if he doesn't disarm, and if the United Nations cannot find the backbone necessary to assume its responsibilities, for the sake of peace, for the sake of freedom, for the sake of doing our obligations to our children, the United States will lead a coalition of nations to disarm Saddam Hussein.

I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good. I believe that. I can't imagine what was going through the mind of the enemy when they hit us. They said this country must have a religion called materialism, that we were so selfish, so self-absorbed, probably looking at ourselves in the mirror all the time, that all we would do after 9/11/2001 is step back and maybe file a lawsuit. That's what they thought.

They don't understand the determination and drive. They don't understand the American spirit. I believe if we're—remain strong and firm in our conviction and clear in our thinking, if we don't forget our roots and remember that freedom is not America's gift to the world, it is God's gift to the world, if we stand true to our beliefs, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace.

That's the vision of this Government, is to achieve peace not only at home but in parts of the world. See, every life matters to Americans. Everybody counts. Everybody is precious, not just a few—everyone. And we want peace for people all around the world, and we can achieve it. By staying the course and remaining strong, we can have peace not only for America but for the Middle East and South Asia. It is possible. As a matter of fact, I believe it's going to happen.

And I know what's going to happen here at home. We'll be a better society as a result of what's happened. A lot of people have taken a step back and kind of taken an assessment, an inventory of their lives, and realized that the American spirit says we've got serve something greater than ourself in life. Government can help; we'll help people in need. Listen, there are people who hurt in Iowa, and they hurt all around America. There's addiction and loneliness and hopelessness in this country. And if any of us hurt, we all hurt. And we've got to do something about it. And Government will help. We'll all work together to try to help. But Government is limited in its capacity. And that's what we know up here on this stage. Government can't put hope in people's hearts or love in people's lives.

No, the best way to help bring light where there's darkness, to help people see a better tomorrow, is for the strength of the country to step forward. And the strength of the country is the heart and soul of American people. People are stepping around—coming around. They're saying, "What can I do to help?" And they're putting their arm around somebody who hurts and says, "I love you." There are mentors in this audience who are making a difference. There are Boy Scout leaders and Girl Scout leaders who are making a difference, and Boys' and Girls' Club leaders—people who are working hard to

change America one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

No, the enemy hit us. But out of the evil done to America is going to come some great good. There's going to be peace in the world, and we'll have a better tomorrow, a hope—more hopeful America, an America where everybody understands the great promise of this country belongs to them just as much as to their neighbor.

You know, the American spirit means not only should we participate in the process, the democratic process; the American spirit says that when we're threatened, we respond. We defend our freedoms. We have an obligation to future generations. But the American spirit also says that we must serve something greater than ourself.

It was personified vividly to me—I want the youngsters here to remember the story of Flight 93, people flying across the country that fateful day. They heard the airplane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves. The spirit of this country is strong and alive and well, and it allows me to boldly predict that we'll have a more peaceful world, and a more—better America.

Thanks for coming. May God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:55 a.m. at the U.S. Cellular Center. In his remarks, he referred to gubernatorial candidate Doug Gross; senatorial candidate Greg Ganske; Chuck Larson, Jr., chairman, Republican Party of Iowa; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in St. Louis, Missouri

November 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much. Thank you all. Thanks for coming. And Laura and I are sure glad we came. We're wandering our way back to Texas. See, tomorrow is election day, and we intend to vote. And we're not undecided. [*Laughter*] And I'm not undecided who ought to be the next United States Senator from Missouri, and that ought to be Jim Talent.

It's good to be here in St. Charles County, and to be with a lot of our friends from the St. Louis area. We appreciate you taking this election seriously. See, that's part of the American spirit. It's the spirit which is strong today. It's the spirit that says, no matter what the cost, we'll defend our freedoms. It's the spirit that says part of being a patriot is to serve something greater than yourself in life. It's the spirit that says, if you love freedom, then you have an obligation as a citizen of this country to participate in the elections. If you believe in freedom, then you have a responsibility to maintain that democratic system by doing your duty.

And so I'm here in the State of Missouri to urge all folks, Republicans and Democrats and independents, to go to the polls. And when you get in that box, I've got a suggestion: For the good of Missouri and for the good of the United States of America, Jim Talent is the man for Senate. Laura and I are really proud of the campaign he has run, and we're really proud of the fact that he and Brenda hold family values dear to their heart.

I'm also proud to be up here with a Senator who's done a fine job on behalf of all the citizens of Missouri, a man I'm proud to call friend, and that's Senator Kit Bond. I know we've got some Members of Congress here: Todd Akin and Jo Ann Emerson and Kenny Hulshof. They're fine members of the United States congressional delegation. I'm proud to call them friends. I'm proud to call them ally.

See, that's what I'm looking for, some allies, somebody who we can count on to do the right thing for America, somebody whose vote we can count on to do the right thing to make sure this country is strong and safe and a better place.

I want to thank John Lewis for running for the State senate. I wish John all the best. Particularly proud to have met Carole Buck, the wife of the great voice of the Cardinals, Jack Buck, a fine man and a fine American.

Thrilled to know that our family friend is here, the man who can really sing. I wish I'd have been here to hear him sing. I'm a country and western fan, and one of my favorites is Randy Travis. I'm proud that Randy is here, and Elizabeth is here—Randy is

here, and Elizabeth, and a friend, Jay Shields, is with them. I'm honored they're here. I appreciate them coming to support this good man.

But most of all, I want to thank you all for coming, the grassroots activists. I want to thank you for what you have done in the past, but more importantly, I want to thank you for what you're going to do today and tomorrow, and that is to turn out the vote. This man has been working hard all over this State, putting out a positive message, and now he needs your help to gather up Republicans and discerning Democrats—[*laughter*]—like-minded independents and get them to the polls. Tell them they have an obligation. They have an obligation to vote, and they have the obligation to support the best candidate. And that best candidate, without a doubt, for the sake of the future of this country, is Jim Talent.

He's shown on this campaign that he can bring dignity to a process that needs dignity, that he's not going to fall prey to the same old, tired politics of tearing somebody down to get ahead. He's treated his opponent with respect because he believes strongly in what he stands for. He stands on solid ground with ideology and principle. And therefore, he doesn't need to resort to the old-style politics. He is a breath of fresh air, and believe me, we need some breaths of fresh air in Washington, DC.

And he's got a record. He's an accomplished man. He served in the Congress, and when he did, he was the leader about promoting small business. And we need people up there who understand how jobs are created. The role of Government is not to create wealth; it's to create an environment in which a small business can grow to be a big business, in which the entrepreneurial spirit can flourish. And Jim Talent understands that. He understands the importance of entrepreneurship in our society.

And we need that kind of understanding in Washington because we got some problems with our economy. It's not strong like it should be. I like to say it's just bumping along. And therefore, there are too many people looking for a job who can't find work. I need to have allies in the United States Senate who understand growth and job creation. And one way to help people find work is to let people keep more of their own money.

See, when you've got more of your own money in your pocket, you're likely to demand an additional good or a service. And when you demand a good or a service, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or a service, guess what happens? Somebody is more likely to find work. The best thing we did to help job creation was to cut your taxes. And we need to have a United States Senator from Missouri who will join Kit Bond in making the tax cuts permanent.

Jim's got a record on important legislation. He wrote the welfare reform bill, and that's an important piece of legislation. It's a great accomplishment because it helped a lot of people move from dependency upon Government to independence, moved people from being dependent upon the Government check to realizing their own worth because they were able to earn their own check. The core ingredient to successful welfare that he saw then—and I need his help to make sure we continue to see it in Washington—is to help people find work, is to train them for work, find work, and encourage them to work. And that's the best way to have welfare dependency reduced in America.

I look forward to working with Jim on some—a couple of other keys issues. On education—I have a passion for education, and he shares that passion. We've raised the standards in America. See, that's what we need to do. We've raised the bar because we want to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. We believe every child can learn in America. We understand that if you have low standards and lousy—low standards are going to get lousy results. If you have low expectations, that's what you're going to get. And so we passed an education reform bill that sets the highest of high standards.

Inherent in that bill is the great trust in the citizens of Missouri. See, we believe in local control of schools. The people who care more about the children of Missouri are the citizens of Missouri, not bureaucrats in Washington, DC. But what's important in this bill is that we're sending a lot of money back home, but we expect results for that

money. For the first time we started asking the fundamental question, can our children read and write and add and subtract—finally asking that question. If we believe they can, then it would make sense to ask the question.

And when we find children in schools that are doing well, we're going to praise the teachers and the principals and the parents. But we need allies in Washington who are not so beholden to special interests that when we find children trapped in schools that won't teach and won't change, that we do not accept the status quo. No child should be left behind in the State of Missouri.

I look forward to working with Jim Talent and Kit Bond to make sure our health care system works better. We've got too many lawsuits, too many junk lawsuits that are clogging our courts, so that if you've got a legitimate claim, you can't get in front of a judge. But those junk lawsuits are also running up the cost of medicine for you, and they're driving good docs out of business. We need medical liability reform in Washington, DC.

We need to make sure Medicare works. We made a promise to our seniors, and we need to keep that promise. Medicine has changed. It's modern. Technologies have changed. There's new discoveries which have made medicine more effective. Yet Medicare is stuck in the past. It's been used as a political football. We need to get people in the Senate with whom I can work to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drugs for every senior in the State of Missouri.

And I'll tell you another big issue and another big difference in this campaign, and that has to do with our Federal judiciary. I have a responsibility to name good people to the bench. I've named a lot of really good people to the bench, but the bunch running the Senate has done a lousy job on my nominees. You need to know the facts. The facts are, we've got too many vacancies on our Federal bench because they're playing politics. And sometimes they're distorting the record of these good people I've named. We need to get rid of all that stuff, for the sake of our solid judiciary. I've been naming good, honorable, honest people, but they don't like the fact that the people I named will not use the bench from which to legislate; they will use the bench to strictly interpret the United States Constitution. And I know I'll be able the count on Senator Jim Talent's support for putting up judges that you'll be proud of, judges whose philosophy the vast majority of the people of this State of Missouri support.

But the biggest issue we'll be working on together is going to be to protect you from further attack. That's the biggest issue we face in America. And we face it because we haven't finished bringing the terrorists to justice. They're still out there, and they still hate. They hate because of what we love. They're motivated by hate. We're motivated by the love of freedom. We love our freedoms. We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We love the fact that people can speak their mind freely. We love a free press. We love every aspect of freedom, and we're not going to change.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. So long as there's an active enemy out there, we've got to be on alert here at home. Listen, we got notified; they put us on notice. And so, therefore, there's a lot of good people working on your behalf to protect you—people at the Federal level, the State level, people at the local level—a lot of really fine, fine American people doing everything they can to run down any hint, any piece of evidence that somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're moving on it. We're disrupting. We're denying. We're doing everything we can.

But I went to Congress because I think there's a better way to even further our ability to protect the homeland, and that is to set up a Department of Homeland Security. I went there because I understand in Washington there's over 100 agencies involved with your protection, the protection of America. I felt, since this is the number one priority of our Government, that they ought to be under one agency to help set priority and, if need be, to change culture so people get the message that we're still under threat and we have to do everything we can to help you.

The House of Representatives responded quickly with a really good piece of legislation, which I can tell you will enable this President and future Presidents to better do a job of

protecting America. But the bill is stuck in the Senate. And I need Senators like Kit Bond and Jim Talent who will work with me to have a Department of Homeland Security which will meet your expectations.

The reason the bill is stuck in the Senate is because some of the Senators there want to take away power that every President has had for the last 40 years, which will allow a President to suspend certain collective bargaining rules in any Department of the Federal Government when our national security is at stake. In other words, if there are work rules that stand in the way of our capacity to deal with an enemy which is trying to hit us, then I ought to be able to suspend those work rules. I ought to be able to do what is necessary to protect the American people. Unfortunately, they—some in the Senate have been captured by special interests. The main interest I have in mind is the security of the American people. I am not going to accept a lousy bill from the United States Senate. And one way to make sure I don't get a lousy bill is to send a man up there who understands what I'm talking about, and that man is Jim Talent.

But the best way to protect America, short-term and long-term, is to find these killers, no matter where they hide, and bring them to justice. And that is what we're doing. And that's what—sometimes you'll see, and sometimes you won't. But you just got to know that the United States is on the hunt.

And we're on the hunt after an enemy which is a little different from any enemy we've ever faced. See, in the old days, you would get their tanks and their airplanes, and you knew you were making progress. These folks hide in caves. They hide in kind of the dark corners of cities around the world, and then they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. There's a difference of attitude, of course, because in America we value every life. We say, "Everybody is precious. Every life counts." And the enemy we face, they've hijacked a great religion. And they don't care about life. They murder. And they're tough, but they're not as tough as the United States of America.

And I know I'll be able to count on Jim's support, just like I could count on Kit's and the Members' of Congress support, to make sure that our military has the best training, the best pay, and the best possible equipment. I signed the biggest increase in defense spending since Ronald Reagan was the President for that reason. But there's another reason why. I wanted to send a message to friend and foe alike that we're in this deal for the long haul. There's not a calendar on my desk in the Oval Office that says, by such-and-such a date, you've got to quit. That's not the way we think in America. It doesn't matter how long it takes. When it comes to the defense of our freedoms, we will stay the course.

And we're working with other nations. The doctrine that says, "Either you're with us, or you're with the enemy," still stands. That doctrine still is relevant. And so there's a lot of folks joining in this hunt. And we got them on the run, and we're going to keep them on the run until we bring them to justice. That's what we owe this generation of Americans. That's what we owe future generations of Americans.

But as we're thinking about Al Qaida, we've also got to look at all threats. See, the world changed on September 11th this way. It used to be oceans could protect us, or at least we thought so—if we saw a gathering threat overseas, that we could pick and choose whether or not we wanted to deal with that threat because there was two oceans. By geography, America was safe, we assumed. The battlefields would be elsewhere. Sometimes we decided to deal with the threat to freedom and democracy; sometimes we didn't. But we were comfortable.

It's important, after September 11th, to realize that oceans no longer protect us. Therefore, every threat matters. And we've got to assess every threat. We've got to be cold-eyed realists about the world. We must have people in Congress and in Washington who see the world exactly the way it is, not the way we would hope it would be. If we're—if our number one priority is to protect to you, then we've got to take every threat seriously.

And that's why I started the dialog on Saddam Hussein. He's a threat. He's a threat to our country because of his—the nature of his regime and the nature of the man, himself. He's a man who said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, but he's denied

and deceived the world for 11 years. A while ago we discovered that he was close to having a nuclear weapon. We don't know how close he is today, but a Saddam Hussein with a nuclear weapon is a true threat to America and our friends and allies.

He said he wouldn't have chemical weapons. He's got them, but even more amazingly, he's used them. And he's used them not only on his neighbors, but he's used them on his own people. This is a person who is willing to gas his own citizens. This is a man who can't stand America and what we believe in. This is a man who hates some of our closest allies. This is a man who has had Al Qaida connections. I want you to think about a scenario in which he becomes the arsenal and the training grounds for shadowy terrorists so that he can attack somebody he hates and not leave any fingerprints behind. He is a threat. He's also a threat to whether or not an international body can perform its duty to keep the peace.

I went to the United Nations and I said to the United Nations, "We want you to succeed. It will make it easier to keep the peace when nations are bound together. It will make it much easier for us to defend freedom if we need to, with the new threats we face in the 21st century. But for 16 resolutions, this man has defied you. Not one resolution, not five resolutions but resolution after resolution after resolution, he has defied you."

I said to the United Nations, and I'm saying it today, "You have a choice. You have a choice to show the world whether you have the capacity to work together to disarm Saddam Hussein for the sake of peace, whether you'll be an effective United Nations, or whether you'll be like one of your forerunners, the League of Nations, an empty debating society." It's their choice to make.

And Saddam Hussein has a choice to make: For the sake of peace, he must disarm like he said he would do. But my fellow Americans, just as the Congress spoke the other day about my attitude, I want to share it with you: For the sake of our freedoms, for the sake of doing our duty to address serious threats in a serious way, and for the sake of world peace—and I mean that—for the sake of world peace, if the United Nations will not act, and if Saddam Hussein will not disarm, the United States will lead a coalition of nations to disarm him.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. I can't imagine what was going through the mind of the enemy when they hit us. They must have thought that materialism was our national religion, that people were so self-absorbed and selfish in America, that after 9/11/2001, we might file a lawsuit or two—[*laughter*]—but that's about all we had in us, that's all we—they don't understand us. They don't realize what I know, that out of the evil they have done to America is going to come some good. Out of the evil done to this great country is going to come some good. And one of the good things that's going to happen, if we stay the course, if we're strong, if we speak clearly, if we're decisive, if we understand that freedom is not America's gift to the world but is God's gift to the world—if we understand those values, if we stay true to our beliefs and true to our responsibilities, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace not only for our country; we can achieve peace for parts of the world that have quit on peace. I believe that. I believe that history has given us a chance, and this great country is going to seize the moment.

And here at home, it's important to realize that we have a chance to make America a better place, that while we work to make America a safer and stronger place, we can work to make America a better place as well.

And Government can help. We can pass law or we can work to make the public school systems work better or the welfare laws work better, make sure the health care systems function. But there's a lot of people that that's not going to matter to because they're hopeless, they're addicted, they're lost. You say, "American Dream," they have no idea what you're talking about. Amongst our plenty, there are pockets of loneliness and despair. And if any of us hurts, we all hurt, as far as I'm concerned.

And the best way to deal with those folks, the best way to help them is to remember that Government cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. The best way to help them is to rally the

true strength of America, the heart of America, and encourage people to put their arm around somebody who hurts and say, "I love you. What can I do to help you? How can I make your life a better life?" And that's part of the American spirit that is so strong and alive today, the fact that people all across this country understand that serving something greater than yourself is part of being an American patriot.

Today I met Tim Mosier from the USA Freedom Corps. He has been a law enforcement guy, been involved in emergency management. And he takes time now to volunteer, teaching citizens in Pettis County emergency response and preparedness skills. That's one way somebody can help, and we can help all kinds of ways. You can mentor a child, run a Boy Scout troop or a Girl Scout troop. You can feed the hungry. You can find shelter for the homeless. There's all kinds of ways to help change America, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

No, the spirit of America is alive and well in this country. People have taken a step back and have assessed their life, and they realize that service to a country, service to a cause, service to something greater than yourselves is part of that American experience.

I want the youngsters here to remember the story of Flight 93, one of most profound parts of this entire history—of the recent history we've been through, profound because it's a story of the American spirit. People flying across the country on an airplane, they learned that the plane was going to be used as a weapon. They were on the phones to their loved ones, said, "Goodbye. I love you." Somebody said a prayer. A guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to save lives, to serve something greater than themselves.

No, the enemy hit us. When the enemy hit us, they had no idea—they had no idea who they were hitting. Out of the evil done to America is going to come a peaceful world. And I will boldly predict to you, out of the evil done to America will come a better country for all of us, because this is the greatest country, full of the finest people on the face of this Earth.

I'm honored you're here. Thanks for helping Jim. May God bless you, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12 p.m. at the Family Arena. In his remarks, he referred to senatorial candidate Jim Talent and his wife, Brenda; country and western entertainer Randy Travis, and his wife, Elizabeth; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Bentonville, Arkansas

November 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all very much for coming today. Thanks for coming.

Audience members. We love you, 43! [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, first of all, we're working our way back to Texas because tomorrow is voting day. And I intend to cast my ballot in Crawford, and Laura is going to cast hers in Crawford, and we're not undecided. And I'm not undecided about what's best for Arkansas. The best thing that can happen to Arkansas, and the best thing that can happen to America is to put Tim Hutchinson back in the U.S. Senate.

And I know something about being a Governor, and you've got a good one. You not only have a good one, you've got a great one. The best thing for Arkansas, the best thing for the taxpayers of Arkansas, the best thing for the schoolchildren of Arkansas is to reelect Mike Huckabee.

You know, the spirit of America is really strong. The American spirit, that's that spirit that says, no matter what the cost, we'll defend our country. It's that spirit that says we love freedom. But part of loving freedom means you have a responsibility. You've got a responsibility to vote. You've got a responsibility to go to the polls.

I'm here in Arkansas asking all the good citizens of this State, Republicans and Democrats, independents, people who don't give a hoot about politics, to do your duty as Americans. You have an obligation. But when you get in that voting booth I do have some suggestions—[*laughter*]—Hutchinson and Huckabee.

No, I'm proud to call Mike Huckabee friend. I knew him—known him for a long while. We were both Governors together,

and I've watched his passion when it comes to education. See, education is to a State what national defense is to the Federal Government. It's the most important responsibility of the State Government, I think. And Mike shares that point of view.

I was here a while ago to talk about advanced reading programs, States which had changed their curriculum to make sure that every child could learn to read. One of the first States that I came to was one of the first States that responded. This State of Arkansas, led by your Governor, stepped up to the plate to make sure that every child can learn how to read.

No, he's got a heart. He cares deeply about everybody in this State. See, the thing I like about Mike, he's not one of the fellows that travels around the State saying, "Well, I'll try to help these folks only because they agree with me politically." Mike Huckabee cares for everybody in Arkansas. And that's why, coming Tuesday, this good State is going to send this good man, with overwhelming numbers, back to the statehouse.

Make sure you don't forget about Win Rockefeller either. He's done a fine job. I want to thank all the candidates who are up here with us, people who have tossed their hat in the ring, are out seeking the vote, working hard to elevate the process. I hope you give them your help, as well.

I'm honored to be here with John Boozman, a fine United States Congressman from Arkansas. I'm proud to call John friend; I'm proud to call him ally. One of the things I like about a Congressman like John is he's an independent thinker, but when it comes down to doing the right thing for America, I don't have to worry about his vote.

I appreciate the Gatlin Boys being here. I've known them for a long time. They're good buddies of mine. And we've got a couple extra seats on Air Force One, and we're heading down home, if you want a ride. [*Laughter*] My problem is you in—the one in the yellow tie, I'm not sure you can pass the security clearance. [*Laughter*] It's great to see you.

I'm also, obviously, thrilled to be traveling with Laura today. Thanks for singing "Happy Birthday" to her. That's one of the prices you pay when you marry somebody in the political process and your birthday is on election day; you have to spend it on the road. You know, when I asked her to marry me, she was a public school librarian. The truth is, she didn't like politics in those days and didn't care for politicians. [*Laughter*] Thankfully, she said yes when I asked her to marry me, and she has made a great First Lady for America.

No, we're enjoying ourselves traveling around our country. And what a magnificent country we have. It's a joy to travel America and to talk to our fellow Americans. One of the things that I'm urging you all to do is the same thing that your Governor just said: Round people up to vote. You see, not only do you have an obligation to vote yourself, but you can make a difference in this election. A lot of those political pundits, the big talkers have said to the world, Hutchinson can't win. Let's prove them wrong on Tuesday.

Sometimes that's where you want your opponent, half asleep. [*Laughter*] You can make a difference. Find good people. In this part of the world, don't be afraid to haul some of those Democrats to the polls. They care about a good United States Senator. They want somebody who's wise about their taxpayers' money. Independent voters care about Tim Hutchinson's point of view. Just tell them, Tim Hutchinson agrees with us. He thinks like the citizens of Arkansas think. And so does Mike Huckabee.

I'm here to thank you for what you've done in the past. I know how hard you worked for Laura and me and Dick Cheney. And I want to urge you, over the next—how many hours, Governor—24, 8 hours, or whatever it is—to get out the vote. Work hard, and you'll be surprised at what's going to happen come Tuesday. And I'm going to be proud of what you do on behalf of these good candidates.

Let me see if I can put it as plainly as I can: I need Tim Hutchinson in the United States Senate. Besides the fact he's a good fellow, and I like being around him, I need his help. See, we've got some problems in the country. We've got some hurdles we've got to cross. It's going to be good to have an ally from Arkansas up there with whom I can work in the Senate.

One of the problems we have is that enough people can't find work in America. We've got some people looking, and they can't find work. And that is a problem. My attitude is, anytime anybody wants to put food on the table and can't find work to do so says we've got to worry about creating more jobs in America. We've got to expand the job base.

But here's what Tim and I believe, how to do it—see, there's a debate in Washington about how to do it. I believe if you let a person keep more of their own money they're likely to demand an additional good or a service. And when they demand an additional good or a service, somebody is likely to produce that good or a service. And when somebody produces a good or a service, somebody is more likely to find work. The tax relief plan that Senator Hutchinson strongly supported came at the right time. And we need to have a Senator from Arkansas who will join me, for the sake of job creation, for the sake of the entrepreneurial spirit, for the sake of small-business owners, to make the tax cut permanent.

I've seen Tim at work, and you're going to see the products of his work in a good education bill. He worked hard on the education reform, the most meaningful piece of education reform in a long, long time out of the Federal Government. A lot of times people hear, "Well, reform out of the Federal Government may not be the kind of reform I like." But let me describe to you what I'm talking about.

First of all, this bill says every child can learn. The premise of the bill is, is that everybody has got the capacity to learn; therefore, we must set high standards and high expectations. The way I like to put it is, we're going to challenge the soft bigotry of low expectations. That means when you lower the bar, you tend to get lousy results. And that's not good enough for America. Tim knows that, Governor Huckabee knows that, and I know that.

In the bill we also are passing power out of Washington because we strongly believe in local control of schools. This year we're sending a record amount of money out of Washington back to the Arkansas school system, $440 million. And Tim Hutchinson—you need to tell your friends and neighbors, Tim Hutchinson had a lot to do with that money coming back to Arkansas. See, he's working hard on behalf of the citizens of Arkansas.

But in return for that money, we're now asking this question, are you getting results? In return for the money, we're asking the question, can the children read and write and add and subtract? If you believe every child can do that, it's a legitimate question then to ask the question. And when we find out if the children are, I can assure you, George W. and Governor Huckabee and Senator Hutchinson will praise the teachers and principals and parents who have worked hard to make it happen. But if we find children trapped in schools which will not teach, trapped in schools which will not change, for the sake of a better tomorrow, we are going to challenge the status quo, because no child should be left behind in the State of Arkansas.

I look forward to working with Senator Hutchinson to make the Medicare system work better. We made that promise to our seniors, and it's a promise that we're going to have to work together to keep. Senator Hutchinson in the U.S. Senate will be easier to work with to get the job done. See, Medicare is stuck in the past. Medicine is changing. Medicine is becoming modern through technologies and new discoveries. Yet Medicare has been used as a political football and is just stuck. We need to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drugs for every senior, and the best way to do that is to send Senator Hutchinson back to the United States Senate.

No, it's a lot of issues we're going to work on. But let me tell you a cutting-edge issue, and that is the issue of judges.

Audience members. Yeah!

The President. We have a got a—too many vacancies on our Federal bench, in spite of the fact that I have sent a lot of names to the United States Senate. The bunch running the Senate up there has done a lousy job with my nominees.

Audience members. Yeah!

The President. And I want to tell you something; the kind of judges I'm nominating are the kind of judges that you would expect

me to nominate and want me to nominate. These are good and honorable people who have got good records, whose records sometimes are being distorted in the Senate, and sometimes can't even get a hearing because they're playing petty politics. These are good, honorable people who will use the bench not to legislate from but to interpret the Constitution of the United States of America.

And this should be clear to the citizens—let me—I hope to make it clear to the citizens of this State that if you're interested in a solid judiciary, if you're interested in a judiciary that represents the majority opinion in Arkansas, put Tim Hutchinson back in the United States Senate.

There are a lot of issues we're going to work on, but there's no bigger issue than protecting you from attack. That's the biggest issue we've got. That's because there's still an enemy lurking around out there, an enemy which hates America because of what we love. And we love our freedoms. We love the freedom to worship any way you see fit. We love the freedom of our campaigns. We love the freedom of our press. We love every aspect about freedom, and we're not going to change.

And so long as we hold strong to what we believe in and so long as that enemy is moving around out there, we've got a job to do, and that's to protect you. There's a lot of good folks working hard and long hours to protect the American people—there just are. See, we've been warned. We're now aware that they're out there. We're aware of how mean they are. See, we've discovered that they don't value life like we do in America. We say, "Every life matters. Everybody is precious. Everybody counts." This bunch of killers are willing to take innocent life in the name of a hijacked religion.

And so we've got to do everything we can, and we are. Anytime we get any kind of hint that somebody is thinking about doing something to America, we're moving on them; we're disrupting; we're denying. We're fulfilling the obligation that you expect us to do, which is to protect you.

And that's why I went to Congress to figure out if we couldn't do it even better. So I've proposed a Department of Homeland Security. It says that we're going to take the agencies involved with protecting America and better coordinate them, make sure that the good folks up there get the message that this is our top priority and, if need be, change cultures, so that people are all working in concert to face the new threats of the 21st century.

And the House of Representatives passed the bill, and I want to thank John for his vote. But it's stuck in the Senate, not because of Tim Hutchinson, I might add, but it's stuck there because some Senators want to take away the power that every President since John Kennedy has had. And that power is the ability to suspend collective bargaining rules, in any Department of the Federal Government, when the national security is at stake. In other words, if there are certain work rules that prevent me from putting the right people at the right place at the right time to protect you, I have had, up to now—and if the Senate, some Senators get their way, I won't have—the ability to suspend those rules. That's what you want. You want me to be able to move quickly and to defend America.

I'm not going to accept a lousy bill from the Senate. There is no question in my mind and there should be no question in the voters of Arkansas mind, that the man who understands this issue the best, the guy who's got the best vision for homeland security in this race is Senator Tim Hutchinson.

The best way to secure this homeland, short term and long term, is to find those killers one at a time and bring them to justice. See, this is a different kind of war. It's a kind of war instead of trying to knock down airplanes and sink ships, we're looking in caves. We're putting the spotlight on some of the dark corners of the world.

Their leaders kind of hide, and then they send youngsters to their suicidal deaths. That's the way they do it. The only way to treat them is what they are, international killers. And the only way to find them is to be patient and steadfast and hunt them down, and the United States of America is doing just that.

I sent a defense bill up to the Congress and Senator Hutchinson and Congressman Boozman were strong supporters of this defense bill. It's the largest increase in defense

spending since Ronald Reagan was the President. The message is twofold. Anytime we put our troops into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training and the best possible equipment. Senator Hutchinson knows that. He also knows what I'm about to tell you. The size of this defense bill sends a clear message to friend and foe alike: We're in this deal for the long haul.

It doesn't matter how long it takes to defend the freedom of the United States. We received the call. We know what our obligations are. There's no calendar on my desk in the Oval Office that says by such-and-such a date we're hauling them home. That's not how we think in America. That's not how Americans want their Government to act. Freedom is essential. Security of America is essential, and it does not matter how long it takes. And that defense bill sent that message loud and clear.

So we're after them. Sometimes you'll see it on your TV screens, and sometimes you won't. But just know we're after them, and we're after them with one of the finest United States militaries ever assembled.

No, it's important for us in Washington to be clear-eyed about the threats we face in America. See, after September the 11th, the world changed when it came to the threats to our country. In the old days—the old days not all that long ago, I might add—oceans protected us. It's not all that long ago that we could kind of settle back and say, "Well, there's a gathering threat over here, but we don't have to worry about it at home because of our geography. Oceans can protect us." There may be a potential conflict, and we could pick and choose whether we wanted to be involved in it. But we didn't have to be involved in it, necessarily, because our own people at home weren't threatened. That changed. The battlefield is here. And that's why it's important for us to evaluate every single threat that we find and deal with them appropriately.

And that's why I started the dialog on Saddam Hussein. He's a threat to America. He's a true threat to our country. This is a man who told the world he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction, promised he wouldn't have them. He's got them. When they had the inspectors go in there a while ago, he was—some estimated—very close to having a nuclear weapon. Imagine this guy having a nuclear weapon. Imagine what it would mean to America and our friends. He said he wouldn't have chemical weapons. He's got them. And not only does he have them, this is a man who used them. And he used them not only on people in his neighborhood; he used them on his own citizens. This is the kind of guy we're dealing with.

This is a man who hates America. He hates our friends. He can't stand what we believe in. He's had contacts with Al Qaida. Imagine a scenario where an Al Qaida-type organization uses Iraq as an arsenal, a place to get weapons, a place to be trained to use the weapons. Saddam Hussein could use surrogates to come and attack people he hates.

No, he's a threat, and that's why I went to the United Nations. I went to the United Nations because I want that august body to work to keep the peace. I want that august body to show whether it's got the backbone necessary to hold Mr. Saddam Hussein to account. See, after all, for 11 years, they've passed resolution after resolution after resolution. Sixteen times they've passed resolutions holding this man to account, and 16 times he ignored them.

My message to that body is, "For the sake of peace, we hope you're effective. We hope you've become an effective United Nations, not the League of Nations." Their choice to make—their choice to make.

And Saddam Hussein has got a choice to make. It's his choice to make. He told the world that he would disarm. We're going to hold him to his word. We expect him to disarm. But for the sake of freedom, and for the sake of peace, if Saddam Hussein won't disarm and if the United Nations is incapable of doing its duty, the United States will lead a coalition and disarm Saddam Hussein.

And I want to thank Senator Hutchinson and Congressman Boozman for their strong support on that resolution that came out of the halls of the United States Congress that allows America to speak with one voice on this very important subject of peace.

I say speaking "with one voice" because I believe that if we remain strong and tough when we have to be tough, we can achieve peace. That's what I believe. That's what I

want you to tell your children or your grandchildren, that amongst the talk that they're hearing, that the drive and the aim and the vision is for peace, for the world to be a peaceful world.

No, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace if we stay the course, and we can achieve peace if we remember our values and remember that freedom is not an American gift to the world; freedom is God's gift to the world.

I can't imagine what was going through the mind of the enemy. I just can't imagine. They must have thought our religion was materialism and that we were so self-absorbed and selfish that after 9/11/2001, we would take a step back and maybe file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] That must have what they thought.

But they're learning different about America. They understand when we love something, we love it to the core, and we love freedom. And they could have never imagined what I'm about to tell you, that out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. Out of the evil done to this country, because of our nature and the fact that the American spirit is strong, is going to come a peaceful world. You mark my words: We're going to have peace at home. But we'll be able to achieve peace in parts of the world where people have quit on peace. We have a chance, and this country is going to seize that opportunity to keep the peace.

And here at home, we can be a better tomorrow—better America, too, and that's important to realize. We have an opportunity to bring some good out of the evil. We have a chance to work together to eradicate pockets of despair and loneliness and hopelessness that exist right here in this country. Amongst our plenty, there are people who hurt. And so long as some of us hurt, we all hurt.

But we've got a chance to change that, by starting with understanding the limitations of Government. No, Senator Hutchinson and Governor Huckabee and Congressman Boozman will all work to pass laws that will help. But we've got to remember that Government, while it can pass out money, it can never put hope into people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives.

The solid truth of the matter is, when you find—if you want to help heal the hurt, if you want to hurt people and help people in pain, the best way to do so is to call upon the great strength of the country, which is the compassion of our fellow Americans. The best way to help fight evil is to do some good by putting your arm around somebody who hurts, and say, "I love you. What can I do to help you? How can I help make your life a better, hopeful place?"

No, a lot of good folks in this country took a step back after September the 11th, and took an inventory of that which is important. That's why I can tell you the American spirit is strong and alive, because people are beginning to understand that part of being a patriot is somebody willing to serve something greater than yourself in life. And you can do so all kinds of ways. You can do so by mentoring a child. You can do so by feeding the hungry, providing shelter to the homeless. You can do so by running a Boy Scouts troop or a Girl Scout troop.

Today I met Cynthia Coughlin. She helped initiate the Boys and Girls Club of Benton County. She's worked for Rebuilding Together, with Christmas in April. That's a program to rehabilitate homes for people who hurt. There's all kinds of ways we can help. There's all kinds of ways to change America one conscience, one soul, one person at a time. And that's happening in this country; it just is. No, the American spirit is alive and well.

I want the youngsters to remember that story of Flight 93. It helps define what I'm talking about, about a spirit of sacrifice. Remember, those are the people flying across the plane that day—flying across the country that day on the plane. They learned that the plane was going to be a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to serve something greater than themselves in life. They saved lives because of their courage and their heroism.

No, our country is strong, and our country is great, which allows me to boldly predict that the evil done to America is going to yield a more peaceful world and a more hopeful country, because this is the greatest nation,

full of the finest, most caring, most compassionate people on the face of the Earth.

Thank you for coming. May God bless you all, and may God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:37 p.m. at the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport. In his remarks, he referred to Gov. Mike Huckabee and Lt. Gov. Win Rockefeller of Arkansas; country and western entertainers the Gatlin Brothers; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks in Dallas, Texas

November 4, 2002

The President. Thank you all. It's nice to be home. I want to thank you all for coming. Laura and I are working our way across the country to get back to Texas so we can vote, and I want to tell you, we're not undecided. [*Laughter*] For the sake of Texas and for the sake of America, vote John Cornyn for the United States Senate. And for the sake of the taxpayers of Texas and for the sake of the schoolchildren of Texas, elect Rick Perry as the Governor of Texas.

No, we're looking forward to getting into that voting booth tomorrow morning, and I hope you are as well. I hope all of Texas takes their responsibility serious. You see, we live in a land of freedom, and therefore, we have an obligation to participate as free citizens. If you're eligible to vote, you should vote. I don't care whether you're a Democrat or Republican, independent, or could care less about a political party, you have an obligation in a free society.

You know, Laura went to SMU. They didn't have a course on how to be a First Lady when she went here. [*Laughter*] But if they had, she'd have gotten an A-plus. I'm really proud of the job she's done.

Audience members. U.S.A.! U.S.A.! U.S.A.!

The President. I'm proud to be up here with some fine public servants; really proud of the job that Senator Kay Hutchison is doing on behalf of all of Texas. She's a strong leader in the United States Senate. She's a strong leader. She's doing a fabulous job. I'm proud to call her friend, and I'm also——

Audience member. [*Inaudible*].

The President. I'm also here to honor Senator Phil Gramm, who has done a great job on behalf of Texas.

I appreciate so very much Congressman Henry Bonilla's hard work in the Texas Victory committee. That's the committee that is going to turn out the vote. See, that's what we're here to talk about. We're here to talk about how to turn out the vote, how to get people to the polls.

I want to thank you all for what you have done. I want to thank you for what you're going to do, which is to find good Texans and get them to vote, turn them out to vote, and get them to vote for this ticket.

These are candidates we can be proud of. These are people that you can have confidence in. So work hard. And by the way, I'm pretty familiar with Texas politics. You know, there's a lot of discerning Democrats who are going to support this ticket. Don't be afraid to talk to those good Democrats. Don't be afraid to talk to independents. Our candidates can reach across party line, because they've got a positive vision for the future of this State and for the future of our country.

I'm proud to be up here with a great statewide ticket. I know them all well. I can vouch for their integrity and their talents: the next Lieutenant Governor, David Dewhurst; the next attorney general, Greg Abbott; a lady who has two sons working in my administration, that would be Carole Keeton Rylander; Jerry Patterson and Susan Combs and Michael Williams—all great candidates, all people you can trust.

I want to appreciate the Members of the United States Congress who are here today. We've got a great congressional delegation from the State of Texas, Sam Johnson and Pete Sessions, Joe Barton and Kay Granger. I'm proud to call them friends. I appreciate working with them. Anytime there's any doubt about my stance on some of these Texas Congressmen, if they're voting with me, I'm for them. [*Laughter*] And they're voting with me. They're solid friends. And we need Jeb Hensarling and the rest of the people running for the United States Congress in Washington, DC, too.

I want to thank the bands who are here tonight, the Waxahachie High School band.

Is the courthouse still standing? That's good. Lake Highlands High School band, I appreciate you all coming. If you're 18, you've got to vote now. If you're 18, you've got to vote.

The SMU band is here. I appreciate them coming. I know you're 18. [*Laughter*] Eric Orson Band, I appreciate them coming as well. I'm sorry we weren't here in time to hear the music. We had to stop in Arkansas on the way down. They're fixing to reelect a Governor, and you're fixing to elect a good man to Governor of Texas. That man is Rick Perry.

He knows what he's doing. He knows how to manage the budget. He understands public schools. He understands jobs. He is the absolute right man for the job of Governor of Texas. And like me, he married well. [*Laughter*] Anita is a great first lady for Texas.

I can't be any stronger for John Cornyn than this: It is the right thing to do for America, to put John Cornyn in the United States Senate. I know him. I trust him. And we can work together on some big issues on behalf of all of Texas and all of America. And there are some big hurdles facing this country.

First of all, this economy isn't doing as good as it should be doing. It's bumping along. And therefore, there are some people looking for work who can't find work. And anytime somebody is looking for work who can't find work, says to me that we've got to figure out how to continue to increase the job base of America. But there's a fundamental difference of opinion in Washington, DC, as to how to do that. The page of the economic textbook that we've read from says that if you let a person keep more of their own money, they're more than likely to demand an additional good or a service. They're likely to demand a good or a service, and when they do that, somebody is likely to produce the good or a service. And when somebody produces the good or a service, it's more likely somebody is going to be able to find a job.

And therefore, the tax cuts we pass in Washington came at the exact right time in economic history. And I need a Senator who will stand strong on this issue. I need a Senator with whom we can work to make the tax cuts permanent, and that Senator is John Cornyn.

I look forward to working with John on a lot of issues, on education and on Medicare. Listen, medicine has changed, and Medicare hasn't. Medicine has become modern. Technologies have changed. There's new discoveries. But Medicare is stuck in the past. I need to work with Kay Hutchison and John Cornyn and Members of the Congress to modernize Medicare, which means prescription drug benefits for our seniors.

And we've got another problem with health care. There's too many lawsuits. There's too many junk lawsuits that are running up the cost of medicine. They're filing suits all over this country, which means good, honest people who have got a claim can't get to the judges, can't get into the courthouse. It means that people aren't going to have accessible and affordable health care. Excessive lawsuits run up the cost of medicine, and they're driving docs out of the practice of medicine. We need a Senate who will join me in passing Federal medical liability reform.

And I need a Senator from Texas with whom I can work to help fulfil one of my most serious responsibilities, and that is to put good people on the Federal bench. There is a vacancy on our benches. There is vacancies all around the country because the bunch that's running the Senate right now won't give my nominees a fair hearing. And when they do give them a hearing, some of them have their records distorted. I need a United States Senator who will stand strong for what most Texans want, and that is a judiciary full of honest and honorable people who will not use their bench from which to legislate but to interpret the Constitution of the United States.

You may remember what happened to one of our finest Texans, Priscilla Owen. I picked Priscilla to serve on one of our top benches. I did so because she's a brilliant lady. She's an honest person. She finished tops in her law school. She was ranked by the ABA as one of the top picks. She is backed by Republicans and Democrats from the State of Texas. She ran statewide and was overwhelmingly elected. I put her up there. Because these people are playing politics, petty

politics, with the nominees I've picked, her record was distorted, and she was denied a seat. She was grossly treated. I can assure you that with John Cornyn in the Senate, he would be a strong supporter of Priscilla Owen and my judges. There's a big difference in this race between the two running for the United States Senate. And that Priscilla Owen case is a clear example of what I'm talking about.

There's going to be a lot of issues we'll work on together. The biggest issue we've got is to protect America, to protect you from further attack, to do everything we can to prevent an enemy from hitting this country again. It's still a problem for us because there's an enemy lurking out there which hates us, and they hate us because of what we love. We love our freedom. We love the fact that people can worship freely in America. We love the fact that people can speak their mind in this country. We love a free press. We love every aspect of our freedom, and we're not going to change.

So long as we take that stand, they're going to try to hurt us. And therefore, we've got to do everything we can to protect you. And there's a lot of good people doing that. I mean, listen, we're on notice. We remember—we remember, remember what happened. And therefore, there's a lot of good people working overtime to run down every hint, any idea, any suggestion that somebody is fixing to or thinking about doing something to America. We're moving on it. It is our most solemn obligation.

I think we can do a better job of protecting you, and that's why I went to the United States Congress, to join me in the creation of a Department of Homeland Security. It needs to be a Department that brings agencies together to focus their attention, to change culture if need be, so that people who are working hard on your behalf get the message that this is our number one job and number one priority.

And the House of Representatives responded. And I want to thank the House Members who are here. But the bill got stuck in the Senate. Here we are with an enemy lurking out there, and the bill got stuck in the Senate because some Senators want to take away power from the Presidency. They want to take away what every President since John F. Kennedy has had, and that is the capacity to suspend certain collective bargaining rules for the sake of national security. In other words, if there's some rules that prevent me from putting the right place—people at the right place at the right time, to protect you, I ought to be able to suspend those rules. But not according to these people. No, the special interests have grabbed them up there. They want to micromanage the process. I need John Cornyn in the Senate to make sure we get us a good homeland security bill.

But the best way to protect the homeland is to hunt these killers down, one at a time, and bring them to justice. That's what we have to do. And that is what we're going to do. And that is why I went to the Congress and asked for a substantial increase in defense spending, as a matter of fact, the largest increase since Ronald Reagan was the President. And I want to thank Senator Hutchinson, and I want to thank the Members of Congress for backing me on that request.

And there's two messages in that bill that I want to share with you. One, anytime this country puts any of our youngsters into harm's way, they deserve the best pay, the best training, and the best possible equipment.

And the second message is equally important. And that is, we're in this deal for the long haul. See, when it comes to the defense of our freedoms, it doesn't matter how long it takes. We're going to do the job. We're going to defend freedom. We're going to do a responsibility so future generations of Americans will know we answered the call. It just doesn't matter how long it takes. There's not a calendar on my desk in that wonderful Oval Office that says, on such-and-such a date, haul them home. That's not the way I think.

And we're making progress in this different kind of war. In the old days, if you knocked down an airplane or sunk a ship, you could say you're making progress. This group we fight now hides in caves or kind of slithers around the dark corners of the world, and they send their youngsters to their suicidal deaths. We value life in America. We say everybody is precious. These folks have

hijacked a great religion and don't care who they kill. And that's the nature of the enemy. They're tough. We're tougher. Slowly but surely, we're dismantling the terrorist network.

It's important for us to be realistic here in America about the threats we face. It's essential we see the world the way it is, not the way we hope it would be, because the stakes changed dramatically after September the 11th, 2001. Prior to that date, we had oceans that we thought protected us, that if there was a gathering threat somewhere around the world, we could either deal with that threat or ignore it, because we were safe at home. Geography kept us safe. After September the 11th, 2001, geography doesn't keep us safe. And therefore, in my judgment, we've got to be cold-eyed realists about threats as they emerge and deal with each one of them according to the level of threat.

There is a threat to the United States, and our close friends and allies, in Iraq. The leader of Iraq is a man who for 11 years has deceived the world. He said he wouldn't have weapons of mass destruction. He has weapons of mass destruction. At one time we know for certain he was close to having a nuclear weapon. Imagine Saddam Hussein with a nuclear weapon. Not only has he got chemical weapons, but I want you to remember, he's used chemical weapons. He's used weapons on people in his neighborhood. He's used weapons on people in his own country. This is a man who cannot stand America. He cannot stand what we stand for. He can't stand some of our closest friends and allies. This is a man who has got connections with Al Qaida. Imagine a terrorist network with Iraq as an arsenal and as a training ground, so that a Saddam Hussein could use his shadowy group of people to attack his enemy and leave no fingerprint behind. He's a threat.

I went to the United Nations to make clear a couple of things: One, he's a threat; and secondly, that this august body has a chance to keep the peace. And yet for 16 resolutions, resolution after resolution after resolution, Saddam Hussein has defied the United Nations. It is now time for the United Nations to choose whether it's going to be an effective peacekeeping organization or whether it's going to be like one of its predecessors, the League of Nations, an empty debating society. It is their choice to make.

It is Saddam Hussein's choice to make. He's told the world he would not have weapons of mass destruction, and in the name of peace, we expect him to honor that commitment. Should he choose not to honor the commitment, the U.N. is incapable of acting, the United States in the name of peace, in the name of freedom, will lead a coalition and disarm Saddam Hussein.

I say, "in the name of peace," because that's what's going to happen, in my judgment. See, out of the evil done to America is going to come some good. I don't know what got into the minds of the terrorists when they hit us. I guess they assumed our national religion was materialism, that we were so selfish, self-absorbed, that after 9/11/2001 we might take a step back and file a lawsuit or two. [*Laughter*] They don't understand the nature of this great country. They don't understand the depth of our passion for freedom.

If we stay tough when we need to be tough, stay strong when we need to be strong, speak clearly about good and evil, if we remember that freedom is not America's gift to the world but God's gift to the world, we can achieve peace. We can achieve peace here at home—we can achieve peace here at home. We can achieve peace in parts of the world which have quit on peace. I believe it. I believe out of the evil done to America is going to come good abroad, in the form of peace. And I believe it's going to make America a better place.

I believe I know a lot of our citizens have taken a step back and taken an assessment about that which is important in their lives. A lot of people have asked that question, "How can I help?" Well, I've got some ideas for you. First, it's important to remember that in the land of plenty, there are people who hurt. There's pockets of despair and hopelessness and addiction. People, when you say "the American Dream," they have absolutely no idea what you're talking about. We've got to remember in this country, when some of us hurt, we all hurt. And therefore, we've got to try to make a difference to improve the lot of everybody's lives. And Government can help. We'll work on Medicare,

and we'll work on education. And Government can pass out money. But I want you to remember what Government cannot do is to put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. People's lives change when somebody puts their arm around them and says, "I love you. Can I help you? What can I do to make your life a better life?"

And that's happening all across America. I'm sure there's mentors here, people who are saving one child's life at a time. I know there are people here who feed the hungry, provide housing for the homeless, or run a Boy Scouts troop or a Girl Scouts troop, or Big Brothers and Big Sisters. There's all kinds of ways that you can help change America, one heart, one conscience, one soul at a time. No, the spirit of America is strong. It's alive and well. It's a spirit that says, when it comes to the defense of our freedom, it doesn't matter how long it takes; we'll defend freedom.

It also says that a true American is somebody who serves a cause greater than themselves. I want the high school students and youngsters here to always remember the story of Flight 93. These are people flying across the country, what they thought was going to be just an average trip. They learned that the airplane they were on was going to be used as a weapon. They told their loved ones goodbye. They said a prayer, asking for guidance from the Almighty. One guy said, "Let's roll." They took the plane into the ground to save lives and to serve something greater than themselves.

The enemy hit us—the enemy hit us. They had no earthly idea who they were hitting. They didn't have any idea that the spirit of this country is strong and alive and vibrant, which allows me to boldly predict that out of the evil done to America is going to come a more peaceful world, and out of the evil done to America will come a more hopeful America, where the great sunshine of hope of this country shines its light into every corner of this land. And I can say that with confidence, because this is the greatest country, full of the most decent and honorable people on the face of the Earth.

Thanks for coming. May God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:08 p.m. in Moody Coliseum at Southern Methodist University. In his remarks, he referred to senatorial candidate John Cornyn; gubernatorial candidate Rick Perry and his wife, Anita; Carole Keeton Rylander, candidate for Texas comptroller; Jerry Patterson, candidate for Texas land commissioner; Susan Combs, candidate for Texas agricultural commissioner; Michael Williams, candidate for Texas railroad commissioner; Jeb Hensarling, candidate for Texas' Fifth Congressional District; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Exchange With Reporters After Voting in Crawford, Texas

November 5, 2002

2002 Elections

Q. Mr. President, what do you think the party's chances are today, sir? Are you feeling good about the election?

The President. I hope people vote. I'm encouraging all people across this country to vote.

[*At this point, the President greeted other voters.*]

25th Wedding Anniversary/First Lady's Birthday

The President. I'm not telling what I gave the First Lady for our 25th anniversary. [*Laughter*]

The First Lady. I'm telling. [*Laughter*]

Q. What about for her birthday?

The President. What?

Q. What about for her birthday?

The President. Not telling. [*Laughter*] Let me just say that I remembered.

Q. Mr. President, do you think you're getting close to agreement on a U.N. resolution?

The First Lady. He did remember.

[*At this point, the President greeted other voters.*]

Q. Sir, what are you thinking about the Senate today? Have you got a chance?

The President. Thank you all.

NOTE: The exchange began at 8:10 a.m. outside the Crawford Fire House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on Signing Legislation To Provide for Improvement of Federal Education Research, Statistics, Evaluation, Information, and Dissemination, and for Other Purposes

November 5, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 3801, an Act to provide for improvement of Federal education research, statistics, evaluation, information, and dissemination, and for other purposes. This Act will substantially strengthen the scientific basis for the Department of Education's continuing efforts to help families, schools, and State and local governments with the education of America's children. This Act is an important complement to the No Child Left Behind Act enacted earlier this year.

The executive branch shall construe sections 115, 116(f), 117(d), 119, 156(b), and 186 of the Act in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to supervise the unitary executive branch and shall construe section 116(f) in a manner consistent with the President's authority under the Recommendations Clause of the Constitution to submit for the consideration of the Congress such measures as the President shall judge necessary or expedient. Also, in accordance with the President's constitutional power to select individuals for nomination, the executive branch shall construe section 116(c)(2) as advisory only. In addition, the Director of the Institute of Education Sciences shall implement section 186(a) of the Act subject to the supervision and direction of the Secretary of Education. Finally, the executive branch shall construe section 156(b) regarding the furnishing of compilations or surveys in a manner consistent with the principles enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1983 in *INS v. Chadha*, which do not permit the Congress by law to authorize a congressional committee to direct an executive branch entity to create a compilation or survey.

The executive branch shall construe provisions of the Act that require taking account of race, culture, gender, age, region, socioeconomics, ideology, secularity and partisan politics, including sections 111(b)(2)(B), 114(f)(7) and (8), 115(a)(1), 116(b)(8) and (10), 133(c)(7), and 151(b)(3), in a manner consistent with First Amendment freedoms and the requirements of equal protection and due process under the Due Process Clause of the Fifth Amendment.

The executive branch shall construe section 174 and title II of the Act as imposing duties on a State or its officials only when the duties are a condition of a Federal grant or contract accepted by or under the authority of a State, as is consistent with the principles governing Federal-State relations enunciated by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1997 in *Printz v. United States*.

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 5, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 3801, approved November 5, was assigned Public Law No. 107–279.

Message on the Observance of Ramadan

November 5, 2002

I send greetings to Muslims in the United States and around the world as you observe the holy month of Ramadan.

Islam is a peace-loving faith that is practiced by more than one billion people, including millions of American Muslims. These proud citizens contribute to the diversity that makes our country strong, and the United States is grateful for the friendship and support of many Muslim Nations that are vital partners in the global coalition to fight against terrorism.

The Qur'an teaches that Ramadan is a time for fasting, prayer, worship, and contemplation. Muslims observe this month by renewing their dedication to caring for those in need, doing good deeds, and strengthening family and community ties. These actions reflect many of the values that Muslims share with people of other faiths across our Nation and around the world, including courage, compassion, and service.

America remains committed to freedom, justice, and opportunity for all people. During this season of reverence and examination,

we continue to work together for a future of peace, tolerance, and understanding. Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a blessed time. May you be well during Ramadan and throughout the coming year.

George W. Bush

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation 7622—In Celebration of the Centennial of the West Wing of the White House, 2002

November 5, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

For 100 years, the West Wing of the White House has served as the workplace of the President of the United States and his staff. Now housing the Oval Office, the Roosevelt Room, Cabinet Room, offices of the President's senior staff, and the James C. Brady Press Briefing Room, the West Wing has become the center of executive branch operation.

Prior to 1902, the President and his staff worked out of offices housed in the White House Residence, causing crowded staff conditions and a lack of privacy for the President's family. This overcrowding prompted planning for the construction of a new wing to serve as offices for the President and his staff. While plans were reviewed during several Administrations, construction did not begin until Theodore Roosevelt's presidency. The wing was completed in 1902, and the Presidential Offices were then moved from the Residence to the new addition. The wing underwent a major expansion in 1909, doubling its size, and further renovations were done in 1929, 1934, and 1969.

Following a Christmas Eve fire in 1929, renovations and restoration displaced Herbert Hoover for several months while new and improved facilities were built. In 1934 the Oval Office was moved to its current location on the southeast corner, overlooking the Rose Garden. In the 1940's, the building became known as the "West Wing."

For a century, the West Wing has served as the headquarters of White House staff members who work to address national and international concerns, advance democracy, and secure a future of opportunity for all. Government and military leaders, Olympic athletes, college champions, artists, entertainers, and citizens from around the world have been welcomed to the West Wing to attend briefings, meetings, bill signing ceremonies, and countless activities that have contributed to the prosperity and security of our Nation and the world. As we celebrate its 100th anniversary, I encourage all Americans to recognize the vital role the West Wing has played in the ongoing work to ensure that the United States of America remains a beacon of freedom, and symbol of hope.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Wednesday, November 6, 2002, as West Wing Centennial Day. I encourage all Americans to commemorate this occasion with appropriate programs and activities, thereby celebrating this important part of our American heritage and the values it represents and upholds for our Nation and the world.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this fifth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 7, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on November 8.

Proclamation 7623—Veterans Day, 2002

November 6, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America was founded on the principles of liberty, opportunity, and justice for all, and on Veterans Day we recognize the men and women of our Armed Forces who have valiantly defended these values throughout our Nation's history. These remarkable individuals have helped to make our Nation secure and to advance the cause of freedom worldwide. By answering the call of duty and risking their lives to protect their fellow countrymen, these patriots have inspired our Nation with their courage, compassion, and dedication.

There are currently more than 25 million living American veterans, many of whom put their lives on the line to preserve our freedoms. Our veterans served on the land, at sea, and in the air, from the shores of Omaha Beach and the jungles of Vietnam, to the sands of the Persian Gulf, the mountains of Afghanistan, and many other battlefields around the globe. Through each of these challenges, the members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard have protected our country and liberated millions of people around the world from the threats of tyranny and terror.

Our proud veterans have also helped to shape the American character. They have given us an extraordinary legacy of patriotism and honor, and their service represents the highest form of citizenship. So that young Americans can better understand the commitment and sacrifice of these heroes in securing the blessings of liberty, I ask all schools to observe November 10 through November 16, 2002, as National Veterans Awareness Week. I encourage educators to invite veterans to teach our young people about their experiences. By sharing their knowledge on some of the most proud and dramatic moments in our history, they can help educate and inspire a new generation of Americans.

On the observance of Veterans Day in 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower called on all citizens to not only remember "the sacrifices of all those who fought so valiantly . . ." but also to rededicate themselves "to the task of promoting an enduring peace . . . ." Today, almost 50 years later, we remember the dedication of our veterans, and resolve ourselves to upholding their legacy of justice, liberty, and opportunity for all.

In recognition of the contributions our service men and women have made to the cause of peace and freedom around the world, the Congress has provided (5 U.S.C. 6103(a)) that November 11 of each year shall be set aside as a legal public holiday to honor veterans.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim November 11, 2002, as Veterans Day and urge all Americans to observe November 10 through November 16, 2002, as National Veterans Awareness Week. I urge all Americans to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans through appropriate public ceremonies and private prayers. I call upon Federal, State, and local officials to display the flag of the United States and to encourage and participate in patriotic activities in their communities. I invite civic and fraternal organizations, places of worship, schools, businesses, unions, and the media to support this national observance with suitable commemorative expressions and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this sixth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 11:29 a.m., November 8, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 12.

Letter to Congressional Leaders Transmitting a Report on Military and Civilian Personnel in Colombia Supporting Plan Colombia

November 6, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

Pursuant to section 3204(f), title III, chapter 2 of the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2000 (the "Act"), as enacted in the Military Construction Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law 106–246, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration. The report provides "the aggregate number, locations, activities, and lengths of assignment for all temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and U.S. individual civilians retained as contractors involved in the antinarcotics campaign in Colombia."

In so doing, I note and appreciate the continued strong bipartisan support given to U.S. programs assisting Colombia in the Act and elsewhere.

This report is classified because of force protection considerations and the high level of terrorist threat in Colombia. However, the aggregate numbers given below are unclassified.

The report indicates that as of September 13, 2002, the end of this reporting period, there were 138 temporary and permanent U.S. military personnel and 250 U.S. civilians retained as individual contractors in Colombia involved in supporting Plan Colombia. This report further indicates that during July, August, and September 2002, these figures never exceeded the ceilings established in section 3204(b) of the Act, as amended.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Richard B. Cheney, President of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 7.

The President's News Conference

November 7, 2002

The President. Thank you. Good afternoon. Thanks for coming. This is an important week for our country and for the world. The United Nations will vote tomorrow on a resolution bringing the civilized world together to disarm Saddam Hussein. Here at home, our citizens have voted in an election that I believe will strengthen our ability to make progress for all the American people.

I congratulate the men and women, Republicans and Democrats, who were elected this week to public office all across America. I appreciate their willingness to leave their private lives and to serve their communities and to serve our Nation.

I also commend the millions of voters across America and across the political spectrum who went to the polls. At a time when our freedoms are under attack, it is more important than ever that our citizens exercise the rights and responsibilities of our democracy.

Now that the voters have spoken, I urge the members of both political parties to come together to get things done for the American people. I've talked to leaders of both parties and assured them I want to work with them. I talked to Senator Daschle yesterday and said that, although the Republican Party now leads the Senate, I still want to work with him to get things done for the American people. I talked to Leader Gephardt as well.

I look forward to working with Members of the Congress and the newly elected Governors to make America's families safer in their homes and their communities, to make our economy stronger so people can find work, to make our country a better and more compassionate place. Members of the new Congress will take office in January, and they'll have a full agenda. The current Congress, however, will return in just a few days to take up some unfinished business.

We have a responsibility to protect the American people against threats from any source. I'm grateful to the Members of the Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, that came together to support the war against terror and authorize, if need be, the use of force to disarm Iraq. We must bring the same spirit of bipartisan cooperation to the urgent task of protecting our country from the ongoing threat of terrorist attack.

The single most important item of unfinished business on Capitol Hill is to create

a unified Department of Homeland Security that will vastly improve our ability to protect our coasts and our borders and our communities. The election may be over, but a terrorist threat is still real. The Senate must pass a bill that will strengthen our ability to protect the American people. And they must pass a bill that preserves the authority every President since John Kennedy has had to act in the interest of national security. It's imperative that the Congress send me a bill that I can sign before the 107th Congress ends.

We have a responsibility to strengthen the economy so people can find work. We're working to keep this economy moving. And one immediate thing Congress should do to help people put—back to work is to pass legislation so that construction projects can get insurance against terrorism. This will spur construction and create thousands of good hardhat jobs that are currently on hold because projects without insurance cannot be built.

Although it's late in the process, Congress must show fiscal discipline. At a time when we're at war and a time when we need to strengthen our economy, Congress must be wise with the people's money, fund the Nation's priorities, and control wasteful spending. The workers of America deserve our action on these important issues, which have been stalled, yet when approved, will strengthen our economy.

Many of the fundamental economic indicators are good. Interest rates are low, so Americans can buy more homes. Inflation is low, so paychecks go further in buying groceries and gas. The productivity of our workers is high. The economy has come out of a recession and is growing, but I'm not satisfied because I know we can do better. We must have an economy to grow at a faster and stronger pace so Americans can find a job. And so I'll work with new Congress to pass new growth and jobs packages early next year.

I look forward to welcoming a new Congress. And I look forward to working with the current Congress to finish some very important work. And now it's my privilege to take some of your questions, starting with Sandra [Sandra Sobieraj, Associated Press].

2002 Elections

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Do you believe that Tuesday's election gave you, personally, a mandate? And now that you have the Republican Congress, what will you do specifically, beyond terrorism insurance and Government spending restraints, to address the real anxieties—[*inaudible*]—of everyday Americans—[*inaudible*]?

The President. Yes. First, I think candidates win elections because they're good candidates, not because they may happen to have the President as a friend or a foe, for that matter. Races that were won were won because people were able to convince the voters they could trust their judgment, convince the voters they care deeply about their circumstances. I believe if there is a mandate in any election, at least in this one, it's that people want something to get done. They want people to work together in Washington, DC, to pass meaningful legislation which will improve their lives.

The best way to win an election is to—is to earn the trust of the voters, and that's what happened in State after State after State. We had some really good candidates who overcame some pretty tough odds. They were running against incumbents in a lot of cases, and they ran great races. And they were reassuring people. And I really attribute the successes to the nature of their candidacies and the hard-working people that turned out the vote. There were some really effective voter turnout organizations around the country.

And I think the way to look at this election is to say the people want something done. They see the risks are high, the risk of being able to find a job or the risk of keeping the homeland secure. And they want people to come together to work on it, and that's what I intend to do.

Helen [Helen Thomas, Hearst Newspapers].

Legislative Agenda

Q. The specifics of your——

The President. Oh, sorry, yes. Well, I'll let you know at the right time. For right now, we got to get through a lameduck session. A lameduck session, for people who don't know what that means, it means the Senate

is coming and the House is coming back between now and Christmas, and they've got a few days to get some big things done. And the most important thing to get done, I want to emphasize, is get a Department of Homeland Security finished.

Some rumors moving around that we may not be too keen on getting that done. I want it done. It is a priority. We got a good bill out of the House, and they need to get a bill out of the Senate and to conference and to my desk. I don't know how much time that's going to take, but having watched the debate prior to the election, it may take some time. But it doesn't matter how long it takes, they need to get it done.

Secondly, they need to get a budget done. We need to get the bills, the appropriation bills, done. And I mentioned, they've got to get the terrorism insurance bill done.

Now, given the amount of time they're likely to be here, that's a pretty big agenda. And in terms of afterwards, I'll let you know. But there are some issues, of course, that I intend to work with the Congress on, and one of them is to get prescription drug benefits to our seniors. That's an important issue. It's an issue that I talked about at every speech. The candidates, I'm sure both political parties, talked about it. And that's something that we need to get done.

But let's get this—get out of this lameduck session first.

Steve [Steve Holland, Reuters].

United Nations Resolution on Iraq

Q. Mr. President, how confident are you that the Security Council will approve the tough new resolution on Iraq? And if that happens, what happens next? What's the next step? Is war inevitable?

The President. Well, first of all, the resolution we put down is a tough new resolution. It talks about material breach and inspections and serious consequences if Saddam Hussein continues to defy the world and not disarm. So, one, I'm pleased with the resolution we put down. Otherwise, we wouldn't have put it down.

I just talked to Jacques Chirac, and earlier today I talked to Vladimir Putin. I characterize our conversation—I'm loathe to put words in somebody else's mouth. That's, evidently, not the case with a lot of people in Washington, but nevertheless, I am. And I'm optimistic we'll get the resolution vote tomorrow, let me put it to you that way.

And Steve, the resolution is a disarmament resolution; that's what it is. It's a statement of intent to, once and for all, disarm Saddam Hussein. He's a threat. He's a threat to the country. He's a threat to people in his neighborhood. He's a real threat, and it's now time for the world to come together and disarm him. And when this resolution passes, I will—we'll be able to say that the United Nations has recognized the threat, and now we're going to work together to disarm him.

And he must be cooperative in the disarmament. So the job of inspectors is to determine his level of cooperation, see. He has got to be the agent of disarming. He's got to agree that what we're doing is what he said he we do. And just like the United Nations has agreed that it is important to disarm him, for the sake of peace, and so the next step will be to put an inspection regime in there to—after all the declarations and after all the preamble to inspections, that he's got to show the world he's disarming. And that's where we'll be next.

Let's see here. Helen.

Q. I have a followup——

The President. Yes, I have a list. [*Laughter*] I don't want to be so discriminatory that people will say that I haven't thought this through. After all, the new arrangement—and by the way, we're here in honor of Ari Fleischer. Otherwise, we'd be in his house. But since he's getting married this weekend, I thought it appropriate to leave the podium that he occupies empty, in honor of the fact that he's getting married. I hope you all have sent your gifts to him. [*Laughter*]

Ari, I did what you asked me to do. [*Laughter*] I'm sure he's on C–SPAN right now.

Helen.

Iraq and North Korea

Q. Mr. President, what is the logic of your insistence on invading Iraq at some point, which may someday have nuclear weapons, and not laying a glove on North Korea, which may have them or may produce them—both

of which, of course, would be against international law. And I have a followup. [*Laughter*]

The President. Well, I may decide to let you have that followup or not, depending upon—[*laughter*]—depending on whether I like my answer. [*Laughter*]

I am insistent upon one thing about Iraq, and that is that Saddam Hussein disarm. That's what I'm insistent on. He agreed to do that, by the way. Saddam Hussein said he would disarm, and he hasn't. And for the——

Q. And you don't——

The President. Is that the followup? [*Laughter*] Okay, that is the followup. I do care about North Korea. And as I said from the beginning of this new war in the 21st century, we'll deal with each threat differently. Each threat requires a different type of response. You've heard my strategy on dealing with Iraq. I've been very clear on the strategy all along, and tomorrow it looks like part of that strategy is coming to fruition.

With North Korea, we're taking a different strategy, initially, and it's this, that we're going to work with countries in the neighborhood to convince North Korea that it is not in the world's interests that they develop a nuclear weapon through highly enriched uranium.

We know they've got the capacity through plutonium. We have IAEA inspectors there watching carefully their plutonium stockpile. And then we discovered that, contrary to an agreement they had with the United States, they're enriching uranium, with the desire of developing a weapon. They admitted to this. And so, therefore, we have worked with our Japanese friends and South Korean friends, with the leadership in China—I will talk with Vladimir Putin about this after my trip to the NATO summit—to remind North Korea that if they expect to be a—welcomed into this family of peaceful nations, that they should not enrich uranium.

I thought it was a very interesting statement that Jiang Zemin made in Crawford, where he declared very clearly that he wants a nuclear-weapons-free Korean Peninsula. That was, in my judgment, an important clarification of Chinese policy that I hope the North Koreans listen to. I believe we can achieve this objective, Helen, by working closely with this consortium of nations, which have got a valid interest in seeing to it that North Korea does not have nuclear weapons.

Terry [Terry Moran, ABC News].

Q. Mr. President, can I have a followup——

The President. Of course, you can. Yes, it's fine. [*Laughter*] If the elections had gone a different way, I might not be so generous. [*Laughter*]

Q. You are leaving the impression that Iraqi lives, the human cost, doesn't mean anything——

The President. Say that again?

Q. You are leaving the impression that you wouldn't mind if you go to war against Iraq, but you deal with another nation which may have weapons in a different way. But there are two other impressions around: one, that you have an obsession with going after Saddam Hussein at any cost; and also that you covet the oil fields.

The President. Yes. Well, I'm—some people have the right impressions and some people have the wrong impressions.

Q. Can you——

The President. Well, those are the wrong impressions.

Q. Okay.

The President. I have a deep desire for peace. That's what I have a desire for, and freedom for the Iraqi people. See, I don't like a system where people are repressed through torture and murder in order to keep a dictator in place. It troubles me deeply. And so the Iraqi people must hear this loud and clear, that this country never has any intention to conquer anybody. That's not the intention of the American people or our Government. We believe in freedom, and we believe in peace. And we believe the Iraqi dictator is a threat to peace. And so that's why I made the decisions I made, in terms of Iraq.

Now, Terry Moran.

Consequences of Action/Inaction in Iraq

Q. Thank you, sir. On Iraq, you've said many times that if Saddam Hussein does not disarm, he will be disarmed militarily, if necessary, by the U.N. or the U.S. and others. There's a school of thought that says that

going to war against Iraq would be a dangerous and misguided idea because it would generate a tremendous amount of anger and hatred at the United States, and out of that you'd essentially be creating many new terrorists who would want to kill Americans. What's wrong with that analysis?

The President. Well, that's like saying we should not go after Al Qaida because we might irritate somebody, and that would create a danger to Americans. My attitude is, you got to deal with terrorism in a firm way. And if they see threats, you deal with them in all different kinds of ways. The only way, in my judgment, to deal with Saddam Hussein is to bring the international community together to convince him to disarm.

But if he's not going to disarm, we'll disarm him, in order to make the world a more peaceful place. And some people aren't going to like that—I understand. But some people won't like it if he ends up with a nuclear weapon and uses it. We have an obligation to lead. And I intend to assume that obligation to make the world more peaceful.

Terry, listen, there's risk in all action we take, but the risk of inaction is not a choice, as far as I'm concerned. The inaction creates more risk than doing our duty to make the world more peaceful. And obviously, I weighed all the consequences about all the differences. Hopefully, we can do this peacefully—don't get me wrong. And if the world were to collectively come together to do so, and to put pressure on Saddam Hussein and convince him to disarm, there's a chance he may decide to do that.

And war is not my first choice, don't—it's my last choice. But nevertheless, it is a—it is an option in order to make the world a more peaceful place.

Let's see here. King. John King [Cable News Network], that is.

Legislative Agenda

Q. Sir, in referring to the elections, you're being quite humble about the results and your role. But many conservative lawmakers and many more conservative groups are saying, "Seize the moment." They say early in the new Congress, you should push your plan to partially privatize Social Security; you should push for new restrictions on abortion; you should push and renominate the judges that were rejected by the Senate; and that you should push a total overhaul of the Tax Code. What are your views on that?

The President. Well, I appreciate all the advice I'm getting. [*Laughter*] One of the things about this job, if you listen carefully, you get a lot of advice. And I—it's important for a President to set priorities, and the two biggest priorities are the protection of the American people—that's why I wanted to get this Homeland Security Department done—and the other one is people being able to find jobs. And we'll work on those. And tax relief or tax reform, however you want to describe it, is part of, in my judgment, of creating economic vitality.

But there are other things we can work on. Obviously, I'd like to see some of my judges get a good—a fair hearing and get approved. And Medicare, prescription drugs is a very important issue, needs to get done. Terrorism insurance is an important issue. Energy bill is an important issue. I mean, there's a lot of things we can do and should do when they come back. And I can't remember the litany of things. Listen, there's going to be a huge laundry list of things people want to get done, and my job is to set priorities and get them done. And job creation and economic security—job creation and economic security, as well as homeland security, are the two most important priorities we face.

Q. Social Security and any new restrictions——

The President. No, I think the Social Security debate is an incredibly important debate. And we call them personal savings accounts, John, so that people have the option, at their choice, to manage their own money. That would be younger workers. Obviously, we've got to assure older workers that the promises we have made will be kept.

And the danger, really, is for young workers. That's the threat, as to whether Social Security will be around for young workers without some massive tax increase. And I still strongly believe that the best way to achieve security in Social Security for younger workers is to give them the option of managing their own money through a personal savings account. Yes, it's an important issue as well.

Listen, there's a lot of important issues. The budget is an important issue. The budget is an important issue coming out of the lame-duck session. And the budget, as you know—you're an old hand around here—is always an important issue in the next session. So that's always an issue, too. There are some practical matters as well that will occupy time here in Washington, DC.

Roberts. John Roberts [CBS News], that is.

Securities and Exchange Commission/ Economic Team

Q. I'm wondering, sir, is Harvey Pitt, the Chairman of the SEC, just the first member of your economic team to go? And a separate question: Will you ask William Webster to resign?

The President. Well, let's see, let me start with Pitt. Harvey Pitt did some very good things at the SEC, and it's important for the American people to know that. Right after 9/11, he did a lot to get the markets opened. He really was—played a major role in that and received good credit for that. And I want to thank Harvey Pitt for that, and the American people should as well.

He has done a lot to make it clear to corporate Americans that think they can—don't have to be responsible in their positions—a lot of enforcement, more so than ever in the history; he's enforced the corporate responsibility ethos. He has disbarred more people; more money has been disgorged as a result of illegal activity. And that's positive, what Harvey has done as well.

And under his watch, CEOs now must verify their returns, and that's good. All that's positive. He made the decision himself that he thought that he couldn't be as effective as he needed to be. I received his letter. I appreciate his service.

William Webster, the—there's a IG investigation going on there at the SEC. We'll see what that says. But I will tell you, William Webster is a fine man. He is a decent, honorable public servant who has served our country well.

Q. ——with respect to——

The President. Is this a three-part question?

Q. No. I'm just kind of reiterating the first. He is just the first member of your economic team to go? The implication is—do you have——

The President. Listen, my economic team came in during very difficult times. There was a recession; there was a terrorist attack; there were corporate scandals. We have done a lot to return confidence and to provide a—provide stimulus through tax cuts. My economic team developed a tax cut package, sold the tax cut package, is implementing the tax cut package. And for that, they deserve a lot of credit. They made good—we're making good progress on the economy. There's still work to do. And I appreciate the hard work of the economic team.

Campbell [Campbell Brown, NBC News].

2002 Elections

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. You were very gracious earlier, giving credit in this last election to the individual candidates. But a lot of those candidates say they have you to thank. Given the fact that your own election for President was so close it had to be decided by the Supreme Court, do you now feel personally reassured that these midterm elections validated your Presidency?

The President. Thank you for that loaded question. [*Laughter*] Look, sometimes you win them, and sometimes you lose elections. That's just the way it is. And I was pleased with the results. I was more particularly pleased for the candidates who worked so hard, and their families and their workers. That's how I feel about it. I really don't put this in personal terms.

I know people in Washington like to do that. You know, "George Bush won." "George Bush lost." That's the way they do it here, zero sum, in Washington. And I know that. But if you're really interested in what I think, I think the fact that Norm Coleman ran a very difficult race in difficult circumstances and won speaks volumes about Norm Coleman. The fact that John Thune ran a difficult race against difficult circumstances and at this point is still short, nevertheless, speaks volumes about his desire and his intention to serve the country.

There's case after case of people who have put their reputations on the line, who spent

a lot of time away from their homes and their families, shaking a lot of hands and putting their hearts and souls—in both parties. They deserve the credit. Thank you for trying to give it to me, but they deserve the credit.

I know what it's like to run for office. I know the strains it puts on families. I know the tired—the endless hours you spend campaigning and all the wonderful questions you have to answer as part of a campaign. I know all that, and these candidates deserve all the credit.

And I was proud to help some of them the best I could. But the way you win a race is, you convince the people of your State or your district that they can trust your judgment and they can trust your character and they can trust your values. And it takes a lot of work to do that, and these candidates get the credit. And I—I appreciate you pointing out that some people have given me credit. The credit belongs to people in the field.

Yes, sir, Wendell [Wendell Goler, Fox News].

Iraqi Compliance With U.N. Resolution

Q. Mr. President, thank you very much. You have put a lot of effort toward getting the United Nations to rally the world to disarm Saddam Hussein. And yet you and your aides have expressed a great deal of skepticism about whether Saddam Hussein will actually comply. Can you give us an idea, sir, how long you think it might take for the world to know whether Saddam Hussein actually intends to go along with the call of the world to disarm? Will it be a matter of days or weeks, months, or perhaps a year, sir?

The President. Well, Wendell, this much we know: It's so far taken him 11 years and 16 resolutions to do nothing. And so we've got some kind of history as to the man's behavior. We know he likes to try to deceive and deny, and that's why this inspection regime has got to be new and tough and different. The status quo is unacceptable, you know, kind of send a few people in there and hope maybe he's nice to them and open up the baby milk factory—it's unacceptable.

And so that's why you'll see us with a different inspection regime, one that works to see to it that Saddam Hussein disarms. It's his responsibility to disarm. I don't put timetables on anything. But for the sake of peace—sooner, better.

And we'll see. But you must know that I am serious—so are a lot of other countries—serious about holding the man to account. I was serious about holding the U.N. to account. And when they pass this resolution, which I hope they do tomorrow, it shows that the U.N. is beginning to assume its responsibilities to make sure that 11 years of defiance does not go unanswered. It's very important that the U.N. be a successful international body because the threats that we face now require more cooperation than ever. And we're still cooperating with a lot of nations. We're still sharing intelligence and cutting off money the best we can. And there's still law enforcement efforts taking place all around the world.

And that's why the international—this international body called the U.N. is an important body for keeping the peace. And it's very important that they're effective. And we'll see tomorrow—starting tomorrow.

And then the key on the resolution, I want to remind you, is that there are serious consequences. And that's one of the key elements to make sure that everybody gets the picture that we are serious about a process of disarming him in the name of peace. Hopefully, he'll choose to do so himself.

Sammons, Super Stretch [Bill Sammon, Washington Times].

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. [*Laughter*]

The President. You and I are eye-to-eye. Well, actually—[*laughter*]

2004 Election

Q. Now that the 2004 Presidential campaign has unofficially begun, can you tell us whether Vice President Cheney will be your running mate again? Or will you, instead, choose someone who might harbor greater Presidential ambitions to, perhaps, succeed you one day?

The President. Well, first of all, I'm still recovering from the '02 elections. [*Laughter*] And we got plenty of time to deal with this issue. But should I decide to run, Vice President Cheney will be my running mate. He's done an excellent job. I appreciate his advice. I appreciate his counsel. I appreciate his

friendship. He is a superb Vice President, and there's no reason for me to change.

I also want to thank him for all his hard work during the campaign. He was out there toiling along, working hard and turning out the vote, and I want to thank him for the hours he put out there as well.

Please, yes.

Q. If I may follow? Last time you had——

The President. Thank you for not standing up. You block the cameras. [*Laughter*]

Q. Last time you had to kind of convince him to take the job. Have you talked to him this time, whether he is interested in serving another term?

The President. I'm confident that he will serve another term.

Judy [Judy Keen, USA Today].

United Nations Resolution on Iraq

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. You said this afternoon that the U.N. Security Council vote tomorrow would bring the civilized world together against Iraq. But broad opposition remains all over the world to your policy. Will you continue to try to build support? If so, how will you do that? Or do you think that a Security Council vote would be all the mandate you need?

The President. First of all, broad opposition around the world not in support of my policy on Iraq?

Q. Yes, sir.

The President. Well, I think most people around the world realize that Saddam Hussein is a threat. And they—no one likes war, but they also don't like the idea of Saddam Hussein having a nuclear weapon. Imagine what would happen. And by the way, we don't know how close he is to a nuclear weapon right now. We know he wants one. But we don't know. We know he was close to one at one point in time. We have no idea today. Imagine Saddam Hussein with a nuclear weapon. Imagine how the Israeli citizens would feel. Imagine how the citizens in Saudi Arabia would feel. Imagine how the world would change, how he could alter diplomacy by the very presence of a nuclear weapon.

And so a lot of people—serious people around the world are beginning to think about that consideration. I think about it a lot. I think about it particularly in the regard of making the world a more peaceful place.

And so it's very important for people to realize the consequences of us not taking the case to the U.N. Security Council. People need to think about what would happen if the United States had remained silent on this issue and just hoped for a change of his attitude or maybe hoped that he would not invade somebody again or just hoped that he wouldn't use gas on his own people when pressure at home began to mount.

I'm not willing to take those kind of risks. People understand that. I think a lot of people are saying, you know, "Gosh, we hope we don't have war." I feel the same way. I hope we don't have war. I hope this can be done peacefully. It's up to Saddam Hussein, however, to make that choice.

I also want to remind you that, should we have to use troops, should it become a necessity in order to disarm him, the United States, with friends, will move swiftly with force to do the job. You don't have to worry about that. We will do—we will do—we will do what it takes militarily to succeed.

I also want to say something else to people of Iraq, that the generals in Iraq must understand clearly there will be consequences for their behavior. Should they choose, if force is necessary, to behave in a way that endangers the lives of their own citizens, as well as citizens in the neighborhood, there will be a consequence. They will be held to account.

And as to the Iraqi people, what I said before—the Iraqi people can have a better life than the one they have now. They can have a—there are other alternatives to somebody who is willing to rape and mutilate and murder in order to stay in power. There's just a better life than the one they have to live now.

I think the people of the world understand that too, Judy. I don't take—I don't take—I don't spend a lot of time taking polls around the world to tell me what I think is the right way to act. I've just got to know how I feel. I feel strongly about freedom. I feel strongly about liberty. And I feel strongly about the obligation to make the world a more peaceful place. And I take those responsibilities really seriously.

Elisabeth [Elisabeth Bumiller, New York Times].

President's Leadership

Q. Thank you, sir. You just said you've reached out to Democrats. Does this mean that you will be governing more from the center and taking fewer cues from the conservative arm of your party?

The President. I don't take cues from anybody. I just do what I think is right. That's just the way I lead. And what's right is to work to stimulate the economy. I strongly believe the tax relief was the right thing to do. If people are really interested in job creation, they ought to join me in my call to make the tax cuts permanent. It's an important part of sending a signal that there is certainty in the Tax Code, that all the benefits from tax relief don't go away after 10 years.

As I like to say—you might have heard me once or 10 times or 100 times—the Senate giveth, and the Senate taketh away. That means there's uncertainty when that happens. And you've got to have certainty in a system that requires risk. And making the tax cuts permanent is an essential part. I mean—and so that is a commonsense drive to create jobs.

I will just tell people what I think about how to solve the problems we face. And I ran on a political philosophy; I'm not changing my political philosophy. I am who I am prior—the same guy after the election that I was prior to the election. That's just who I am and how I intend to lead this country.

Jean Cummings [Wall Street Journal]. I'm having such a good time. [*Laughter*] Jean Cummings—there she is, yes.

Securities and Exchange Commission

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Getting back to the question of Harvey Pitt.

The President. Pitt, yes.

Q. What kind of person are you looking for to fill that position now? And how quickly do you want to move on that? And then also, as much as you said that Mr. Webster is a well-respected and quality person, do you think that the Chairman, whoever that new Chairman is, should have a chance to select their own person and have a fresh start?

The President. Well, I think—that's kind of the double-whammy hypothetical there, Jean. I think that the—on Webster, first, let's find out what the facts are so that everybody knows. That's why they're doing this investigation. And it's—one fact is irrefutable: He's a decent man; he's served the country well. And I know he can do that job.

Secondly, as soon as possible, for the SEC nominee and somebody who is going to continue to fulfill the obligation that—of holding people to account. In other words, holding wrongdoers to account and making sure the numbers are fair and open and transparent and everybody understands the facts when it comes to—to accounting, so that we continue to regain confidence in our system; that people, when they invest based upon the numbers of a particular stock, are confident in that which they read. And that's an essential part of the SEC job, and I'm confident we can find somebody soon to be able to do that.

Hutch [Ron Hutcheson, Knight Ridder].

Consequences of Action/Inaction in Iraq

Q. Thank you. I wanted to go back to your earlier point about the risk of an action versus the risk of inaction.

The President. Where would that be, in the Congress or at the U.N.?

Q. With Iraq.

The President. Oh, okay.

Q. Your CIA Director told Congress just last month that it appears that Saddam Hussein "now appears to be drawing a line short of conducting terrorist attacks against the United States." But if we attacked him he would "probably become much less constrained." Is he wrong about that?

The President. No. I think that—I think that if you would read the full—I'm sure he said other sentences. Let me just put it to you: I know George Tenet well; I meet with him every single day; he sees Saddam Hussein as a threat. I don't know what the context of that quote is. I'm telling you, the guy knows what I know, that he is a problem and we must deal with him.

And you know, it's like people say, "Oh, we must leave Saddam alone. Otherwise, if we did something against him, he might attack us." Well, if we don't do something, he

might attack us, and he might attack us with a more serious weapon. The man is a threat, Hutch, I'm telling you. He's a threat not only with what he has; he's a threat with what he's done. He's a threat because he is dealing with Al Qaida. In my Cincinnati speech, I reminded the American people, a true threat facing our country is that an Al-Qaida-type network trained and armed by Saddam could attack America and leave not one fingerprint. That is a threat. And we're going to deal with it.

The debate about whether we're going to deal with Saddam Hussein is over. And now the question is, how do we deal with him? I made the decision to go to the United Nations because I want to try to do this peacefully. I want Saddam to disarm. The best way to convince him to disarm is to get the nations to come together through the U.N. and try to convince him to disarm.

We're going to work on that. We've been spending a lot of time—I wouldn't exactly call it gnashing of teeth, but working hard on the U.N. resolution. It took a while, but we've been grinding it out, trying to bring a consensus, trying to get people together, so that we can say to the world the international community has spoken through the Security Council of the United Nations, and now, once again, we expect Saddam to disarm.

This would be the 17th time that we expect Saddam to disarm. This time we mean it. See, that's the difference—I guess. This time it's for real. And I say it must not have been for real the last 16 times because nothing happened when he didn't. This time something happens. He knows—he's got to understand that. The members of the U.N. Security Council understand that. Saddam has got to understand it so he—so in the name of peace, for a peaceful resolution of this, we hope he disarms.

Jackson [David Jackson, Dallas Morning News], from Texas. You got anything—a Texas question?

Judicial Confirmation Process

Q. As a matter of fact, I do. [*Laughter*]

The President. Thank you.

Q. Do you intend to resuscitate the nomination of Priscilla Owen and Charles Pickering? And also, how bloody do you think the next Supreme Court nomination will be?

The President. Well, first, I want the new chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee to understand that I am very serious about the reforms that I suggested in the East Room, about how to get this process of nominating judges and approving judges on the right course, not only for this administration but future administrations, not only for this Senate but future Senates. And so step one on the judiciary process, I believe there needs to be reform. I would be glad to reprise the reforms if you can't remember them.

Q. Owen and Pickering, are they going to——

The President. I'll be there in a minute. [*Laughter*] I'm using this as an opportunity to make a point on judicial reform. And that is that if a judge thinks he's going to retire, give us a year's notice, if possible. And then we will act—"we," the administrative branch, will nominate somebody and clear them within 180 days. And then the Senate judiciary has got 90 days to go through the process and then get the person's name to the floor and 180 days for an up-or-down vote. To me, that would be a needed and necessary reform.

So step one on the nomination process is to work with Senator Hatch—and Senator Leahy—to put these reforms in place, is to convince Members of the Senate we're serious about a process that will get rid of the old bitterness of the judicial process.

This is probably not to your liking, by the way. You love those court fights. I'm confident it makes great covering and great stories.

I also said at the time of Priscilla Owen's being—not being put to the floor of the Senate that I would hope that the Judiciary Committee would let her name out to the Senate floor at some point in time. We don't have to recommit them. They never—they're there. Pickering and Owen are still there at the committee level. They just weren't ever—their names were never let to the floor for a vote.

By the way, if they had been let to the floor for a vote, we believe they would have won the vote—perhaps the reason why they

were never let to the floor for a vote. But—so, I hope that judiciary committee will let their names out and they get a fair hearing.

I thought you were going to talk about the Texas elections. But that's okay. [*Laughter*]

April [April Ryan, American Urban Radio Networks], last question.

Q. Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you.

Ryan Tyler James

The President. How's your child, April?

Q. She's wonderful.

The President. Georgia W? [*Laughter*]

Q. My husband is watching, and the name is Ryan Tyler James. [*Laughter*].

The President. You might as well turn to the camera when you say that. [*Laughter*]

Haitian Immigrants/Immigration Policy

Q. Well, Mr. President, some critics contend there is a racial disparity in how immigrants are handled here, and speaking of the Haitians versus immigrants, the other immigrants. Do you support the current law on the books about Haiti, and why, either way?

The President. April, first of all, the immigration laws ought to be the same for Haitians and everybody else, except for Cubans. And the difference, of course, is that we don't send people back to Cuba because they're going to be persecuted. And that's why we've got the special law on the books as regards to Cubans. But Haitians and everybody else ought to be treated the same way. And we're in the process of making sure that happens.

It's been an enjoyable experience.

NOTE: The President's news conference began at 2 p.m. in Presidential Hall in the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; President Jacques Chirac of France; President Vladimir Putin of Russia; President Jiang Zemin of China; William Webster, Director, Security Review Commission; Norm Coleman, Senator-elect from Minnesota; and Representative John R. Thune, defeated senatorial candidate from South Dakota. The President also referred to Texas Supreme Court Justice Priscilla Owen and Judge Charles W. Pickering, Sr., whose nominations to be U.S. Circuit Judges for the Fifth Circuit failed when the Senate Judiciary Committee refused to send them forward for a vote by the Senate.

Statement on Signing the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002

November 7, 2002

Today I have signed into law H.R. 4685, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to expand the types of Federal agencies that are required to prepare audited financial statements.

The executive branch shall construe the terms "agency," "executive agency," and "covered executive agency" as used in the legislation in a manner consistent with the separation of powers principles recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1992 in *Franklin v. Massachusetts;* the principle of construction relating to section 552 of title 5 set forth by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1993 in *Meyer v. Bush;* and the principle of construction relating to section 112 of title 3 set forth by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in 1995 in *Haddon v. Walters.*

George W. Bush

The White House,
November 7, 2002.

NOTE: H.R. 4685, approved November 7, was assigned Public Law No. 107–289.

Statement on Signing the Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002

November 7, 2002

Earlier today I signed into law H.R. 4685, the Accountability for Tax Dollars Act. I was pleased to sign this legislation, and I thank Congressman Pat Toomey for his hard work on this bill.

The American people deserve an efficient Government. Requiring agencies to provide accurate financial information helps ensure their accountability.

NOTE: H.R. 4685, approved November 7, was assigned Public Law No. 107–289.

Remarks at an Iftaar Dinner

November 7, 2002

Good evening. Thank you all for coming. I'm honored to welcome such a distinguished group of Ambassadors and American citizens to the White House to help usher in the holy month of Ramadan.

Islam is a religion that brings hope and comfort to more than a billion people around the world. It has made brothers and sisters of every race. It has given birth to a rich culture of learning and literature and science. Tonight we honor the traditions of a great faith by hosting this Iftaar at the White House.

I'm honored that our great Secretary of State is with us today. Mr. Secretary, thank you for being here. I appreciate Your Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Zayid of the United Arab Emirates for coming. I want to thank members of my administration who are here, in particular, Dr. Elias Zerhouni, who's the Director of the National Institute of Health. I want to thank all the Ambassadors who are here. It's good to see you all again—the other representatives from the Organization of Islamic Conference. I appreciate so very much my fellow Americans here, many from the Muslim community.

Ramadan is a special time of prayer and fasting, contemplation of God's greatness, and service to those in need. According to Muslim teachings, this season commemorates the revelation of God's word in the Holy Koran to the prophet Muhammad. Today, this word inspires faithful Muslims to lead lives of honesty and integrity and compassion.

In hosting tonight's Iftaar, I send a message to all the nations represented by their Ambassadors here tonight: America treasures your friendship; America honors your faith. We see in Islam a religion that traces its origins back to God's call on Abraham. We share your belief in God's justice and your insistence on man's moral responsibility. We thank the many Muslim nations who stand with us against terror, nations that are often victims of terror, themselves.

Tonight's Iftaar also sends a message to all Americans: Our Nation is waging a war on a radical network of terrorists, not on a religion and not on a civilization. If we wage this war to defend our principles, we must live up to those principles, ourselves. And one of the deepest commitments of America is tolerance. No one should be treated unkindly because of the color of their skin or the content of their creed. No one should be unfairly judged by appearance or ethnic background or religious faith. We must uphold these values of progress and pluralism and tolerance.

George Washington said that America gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance. This was our policy at our Nation's founding; this is our policy today. America rejects all forms of religious intolerance. America grieves with all the victims of religious bigotry. And America opposes all who commit evil in God's name.

Ramadan and the upcoming holiday seasons are a good time to remember the ties of friendship and respect that bind us together. Learning from each other, we can build bridges of mutual trust and understanding. Working together, we can create a better future for people of all faiths.

I thank you for coming to the White House this evening. I wish you all a blessed Ramadan. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 6:05 p.m. in the State Dining Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamdan bin Zayid Al Nuhayyan of the United Arab Emirates.

Remarks on the Passage of a United Nations Security Council Resolution on Iraq

November 8, 2002

Good morning. With the resolution just passed, the United Nations Security Council has met important responsibilities, upheld its principles, and given clear and fair notice that Saddam Hussein must fully disclose and destroy his weapons of mass destruction. He must submit to any and all methods to verify his compliance. His cooperation must be prompt and unconditional, or he will face the severest consequences.

The world has now come together to say that the outlaw regime in Iraq will not be

permitted to build or possess chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. That is the judgment of the United States Congress. That is the judgment of the United Nations Security Council. Now the world must insist that that judgment be enforced.

Iraq's obligation to disarm is not new or even recent. To end the Persian Gulf war and ensure its own survival, Iraq's regime agreed to disarm in April of 1991. For over a decade the Iraqi regime has treated its own pledge with contempt. As today's resolution states, Iraq is already in material breach of past U.N. demands. Iraq has aggressively pursued weapons of mass destruction, even while inspectors were inside the country. Iraq has undermined the effectiveness of weapons inspectors with ploys, delays, and threats, making their work impossible and leading to 4 years of no inspections at all.

The world has learned from this experience an essential lesson: Inspections will not result in a disarmed Iraq unless the Iraqi regime fully cooperates. Inspectors do not have the power to disarm an unwilling regime. They can only confirm that a government has decided to disarm itself. History has shown that when Iraq's leaders stall inspections and impede the progress, it means they have something to hide.

The resolution approved today presents the Iraqi regime with a test, a final test. Iraq must now, without delay or negotiations, fully disarm, welcome full inspections, and fundamentally change the approach it has taken for more than a decade.

The regime must allow immediate and unrestricted access to every site, every document, and every person identified by inspectors. Iraq can be certain that the old game of cheat-and-retreat, tolerated at other times, will no longer be tolerated. Any act of delay or defiance will be an additional breach of Iraq's international obligations and a clear signal that the Iraqi regime has once again abandoned the path of voluntary compliance.

With the passage of this resolution, the world must not lapse into unproductive debates over whether specific instances of Iraqi noncompliance are serious. Any Iraqi noncompliance is serious because such bad faith will show that Iraq has no intention of disarming. If we're to avert war, all nations must continue to pressure Saddam Hussein to accept this resolution and to comply with its obligations and his obligations.

America will be making only one determination: Is Iraq meeting the terms of the Security Council resolution or not? The United States has agreed to discuss any material breach with the Security Council, but without jeopardizing our freedom of action to defend our country. If Iraq fails to fully comply, the United States and other nations will disarm Saddam Hussein.

I've already met with the head of the U.N. inspections program and the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has responsibility for nuclear matters. I've assured them that the United States will fully support their efforts, including a request for information that can help identify illegal activities and materials in Iraq. I encourage every member of the United Nations to strongly support the inspection teams. And now the inspectors have an important responsibility to make full use of the tools we have given them in this resolution.

All patriotic Iraqis should embrace this resolution as an opportunity for Iraq to avoid war and end its isolation. Saddam Hussein cannot hide his weapons of mass destruction from international inspectors without the cooperation of hundreds and thousands of Iraqis, those who work in the weapons program and those who are responsible for concealing the weapons. We call on those Iraqis to convey whatever information they have to inspectors, the United States, or other countries, in whatever manner they can. By helping the process of disarmament, they help their country.

Americans recognize what is at stake. In fighting a war on terror, we are determined to oppose every source of catastrophic harm that threatens our country, our friends, and our allies. We are actively pursuing dangerous terror networks across the world. And we oppose a uniquely dangerous regime, a regime that has harbored terrorists and can supply terrorists with weapons of mass destruction, a regime that has built such terrible weapons and has used them to kill thousands, a brutal regime with a history of both reckless ambition and reckless miscalculation.

The United States of America will not live at the mercy of any group or regime that has the motive and seeks the power to murder Americans on a massive scale. The threat to America also threatens peace and security in the Middle East and far beyond. If Iraq's dictator is permitted to acquire nuclear weapons, he could resume his pattern of intimidation and conquest and dictate the future of a vital region.

In confronting this threat, America seeks the support of the world. If action becomes necessary, we will act in the interests of the world. And America expects Iraqi compliance with all U.N. resolutions.

The time has come for the Iraqi people to escape oppression, find freedom, and live in hope.

I want to thank the Secretary of State Colin Powell for his leadership, his good work, and his determination over the past 2 months. He's worked tirelessly and successfully for a resolution that recognizes important concerns of our Security Council partners and makes Iraq's responsibilities clear. I also thank our Ambassador to the United Nations, John Negroponte, and his team at our U.N. mission in New York for their hard work and outstanding service to our country. Secretary of State Powell's team has done a fine job.

The American people are grateful to the Security Council for passing this historic resolution. Members of the Council acted with courage and took a principled stand. The United Nations has shown the kind of international leadership promised by its charter and required by our times. Now comes the hard part. The Security Council must maintain its unity and sense of purpose so that the Iraq regime cannot revert to the strategies of obstruction and deception it used so successfully in the past.

The outcome of the current crisis is already determined: The full disarmament of weapons of mass destruction by Iraq will occur. The only question for the Iraqi regime is to decide how. The United States prefers that Iraq meet its obligations voluntarily, yet we are prepared for the alternative. In either case, the just demands of the world will be met.

Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:44 a.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq; Hans Blix, Executive Chairman, United Nations Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission; and Mohamed ElBaradei, Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency.

Remarks Honoring the 2002 Stanley Cup Champion Detroit Red Wings

November 8, 2002

Thank you all for coming. Gosh, we're honored you're here. Thanks for coming, and welcome to the White House.

I am honored to be greeting the mighty Detroit hockey team, winners of the Stanley Cup 3 out of the last 6 years, 10 times winners of the Stanley Cup and the team that made Detroit "Hockeytown."

It's an honor to be with the Ilitches. Mike and Marian are the—who do a really good job of setting the right tone for this club. I knew Mike when he was a Detroit Tiger owner. And this goes to prove it's easier to win in hockey than in baseball, I guess. [*Laughter*]

We're glad you all are here. Mr. Commissioner, thank you for coming. I appreciate you being here. It's an honor also to be on the stage with a great coach, a man whose name appears on the Stanley Cup 10 times—9 times as a coach. Obviously, he knows what he's doing. [*Laughter*] He gets all these ruffians skating in the same direction, is a pretty good—[*laughter*].

But I'm real proud of you, Scotty. I know the people of Detroit love you, and they're going to miss your leadership.

If I hadn't already asked—announced that yesterday the Vice President was going to be my running mate, I was going to—[*laughter*]—I was thinking about you, anyway. [*Laughter*]

I appreciate Dave Lewis, Scotty's replacement, being here. And I wish you all the best, Dave, for coming. It's an honor as well to be with the—obviously, one of the true leaders of any sport, the team captain of the—of the Detroit team, captain for 17 years, which is pretty remarkable that Steve could keep the respect of a group of highly skilled professionals for that long a period of time.

And I am honored to be able to meet you, and I appreciate the character you've displayed as a real leader.

I'm also pleased to welcome some of Detroit's biggest fans here, including some of the elected officials who are the biggest fans, starting with our Secretary of Energy, Spence Abraham—Mr. Secretary. And we've got the Levin boys here from Michigan, Senator Carl and Congressman Sander. Thank you all for coming. Congressman Mike Rogers and, of course, Congressman Conyers is here as well. We're honored that you all have come, and I know the team is grateful that you've taken time to come and express your support.

Somebody said, "Well, the roster looks like the Hall of Fame ballot." It doesn't look like the Hall of Fame ballot to me; it looks like the United Nations. [*Laughter*]

We're proud to welcome the team members from all around the globe. It is a remarkable sport that is able to attract star athletes from a lot of different countries and bring them together to play on one team. I think that's a pretty good example for the world to see. I think it is a remarkable feat that you've got all these stars from different parts of the world all aiming in the same direction.

Darren McCarty put it this way. He said, "A lot of us were"—when I say the word "it," it's talking about the Stanley Cup—"A lot of us were fighting to get it back; some guys were fighting to do it for the first time. The bottom line is, we're all fighting to do it together." And I appreciate that spirit. I think it's a good example for a lot of people who live in America, doing something to serve something greater than yourself, in this case, the team. We appreciate that spirit. I don't think you'd have won without the team concept.

I also am appreciative of what you do with the Stanley Cup, the traditions of not only putting the players' names on the cup but taking the cup to different players' hometowns. I think that's a pretty neat idea. And so this cup has been all across the U.S.; of course, it's been all across Canada. [*Laughter*] It seems like you've got quite a few Canadians on the team there. [*Laughter*] But it's been to Sweden and Russia and the Czech Republic. I'm fixing to go to the Czech Republic. The cup goes, and then the President goes. [*Laughter*]

It rode on the back of a Harley with Darren McCarty, went to Wrigley Field with Kris, got a bagpipe reception at Kris Draper's Stanley Cup party, and here it is at the White House. The cup has seen a lot, because the players are people that were proud to show off their accomplishments.

But let me tell you what I'm most impressed with, about how the players and the owners have used this championship victory. It brightened a lot of people's lives. See, that's the most important thing about this championship, as far as I'm concerned.

One afternoon, Steve Yzerman brought the cup to children in three different hospitals across the State of Michigan. The Ilitch family used the cup to raise a lot of money for a local emergency room. The coach made a dream come true for a child with leukemia, who just simply wanted to touch the Stanley Cup.

See, it's one thing to be the champion on the ice; it's another thing to be a champion in living your lives. I think there's a huge responsibility that comes with being a champion. It's a huge responsibility when people put the spotlight on you. You have a responsibility to set the right example and to use your position to help not only serve something greater than yourself, the team, but to serve a society and help heal the hurt and help people who need a little special care.

So not only has this great team proven themselves to be champs on the ice, you've proven yourself to be champs off the ice. And for that, we are really grateful. Welcome to the White House.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:16 p.m. in the East Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gary Bettman, commissioner, National Hockey League; Red Wings owners Mike and Marian Ilitch; and Red Wings retired coach Scotty Bowman, coach Dave Lewis, right wing Darren McCarty, and centers Kris Draper and Steve Yzerman. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Mr. Bowman.

Proclamation 7624—National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, 2002

November 8, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Our National Guard and Reserve units comprise 38 percent of America's military forces, and we are grateful for the commitment of these brave men and women. During National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week, we pay tribute to those serving our Nation in the National Guard and Reserve, and to the civilian employers whose continued support enables our Reserve component soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen to defend our country with honor and distinction.

Through their service, National Guard and Reserve personnel play an important role in our efforts to advance democracy, peace, and freedom across our Nation and around the world. These dedicated men and women train vigorously and work closely with our active-duty forces, serving as equal partners in our integrated Armed Forces. As our need for their efforts expands, these citizen-soldiers will spend more time away from their families, homes, and workplaces protecting our Nation and the ideals that make us strong.

As we face new challenges and welcome new opportunities, the continued support of patriotic employers remains vital to the success of our National Guard and Reserve. Our volunteer National Guardsmen and Reservists rely on their employers for essential support and encouragement that often come at the employer's expense. These employers reflect the spirit of our Nation, and during this week I join with members of our Armed Forces and all our citizens in recognizing those who serve in our National Guard and Reserve and all who support them, and all Americans whose contributions and sacrifices help our military remain the finest fighting force in the world.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 10 through November 16, 2002, as National Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Week. I encourage all Americans to join me in expressing our heartfelt thanks to the civilian employers of the members of our National Guard and Reserve for their extraordinary sacrifices on behalf of our Nation. I also call upon State and local officials, private organizations, businesses, and all military commanders to observe this week with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:49 a.m., November 12, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on November 13.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

November 2

In the morning, the President traveled to Blountville, TN, and then to Atlanta, GA. In the afternoon, he traveled to Savannah, GA, and then to Tampa, FL.

November 3

In the morning, the President traveled to Springfield, IL. In the afternoon, he traveled to St. Paul, MN, and then to Sioux Falls, SD, where he was joined by Mrs. Bush.

In the evening, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to Cedar Rapids, IA.

November 4

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with President Vicente Fox of Mexico to discuss the proposed United Nations Security Council resolution on Iraq.

Later in the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush traveled to St. Louis, MO. In the afternoon, they traveled to Bentonville, AR, and then to Dallas, TX. In the evening, they traveled to the Bush Ranch in Crawford, TX.

November 5

In the morning, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC.

During the day, the President had telephone conversations with candidates involved in the day's national and State elections.

In the evening, in the White House Residence, the President and Mrs. Bush had dinner and watched election returns with Republican leaders, including Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert, Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott, Representative Tom Davis of Virginia, Senator Bill Frist of Tennessee, and Republican National Committee chairman Marc Racicot, and their spouses.

Also in the evening, the President had telephone conversations with candidates involved in the day's elections, including Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, whom he congratulated on his projected reelection. He also had telephone conversations with Vice President Dick Cheney and Senior Advisor to the President Karl Rove.

November 6

In the morning, the President had telephone conversations with candidates involved in the previous day's elections, including Democrat Senator-elect Mark Pryor of Arkansas.

The President declared a major disaster in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, tornadoes, and flooding on October 24 and continuing.

November 7

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Vladimir Putin of Russia to discuss the proposed U.N. Security Council resolution on Iraq. He also met with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other members of the National Security Council.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney.

The President announced his intention to nominate Karen Johnson to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Legislation and Congressional Affairs.

November 8

In the morning, the President had intelligence briefings. He also had a telephone conversation with Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany, and separate telephone conversations with Prime Minister Jean Chretien of Canada and Prime Minister John Howard of Australia to discuss the proposed U.N. Security Council resolution on Iraq, and other bilateral issues.

In the afternoon, the President had lunch with Speaker of the House of Representatives J. Dennis Hastert and Senate Minority Leader Trent Lott to discuss the legislative agenda. Later, he met with Prime Minister Peter Medgyessy of Hungary. He then traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President announced his intention to designate Cornelius Williams Ruth to be U.S. Representative and Chairman of the Rio Grande Compact Commission for Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Thomas C. Foley, Brenda LaGrange Johnson, James A. Johnson, and Marlene A. Malek.

The President announced his intention to appoint Frank E. Fowler II and Margaret Robson as members of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.

The President announced his intention to appoint Mary Elizabeth Child and Torrey Westrom as members of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel.

The President announced his intention to appoint Andrew Ly Thanh Buhr as a member of the Commission on Presidential Scholars.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

NOTE: No nominations were submitted to the Senate during the period covered by this issue.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released November 2

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2215, H.R. 4967, H.R. 5542, and H.R. 5596

Released November 3

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released November 4

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Released November 5

Transcript of a press gaggle by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 2245, H.R. 2733, and H.R. 3656

Released November 6

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Ari Fleischer

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Texas

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 4013, H.R. 4014, H.R. 5200, H.R. 5308, H.R. 5333, H.R. 5336, and H.R. 5340

Released November 7

Statement by the Press Secretary announcing that the President signed H.R. 3253, H.R. 4015, H.R. 5205, and H.R. 5574

Transcript of remarks by Mrs. Laura Bush in a telephone conversation with Ms. Effie Hobby, a Connecticut resident who has voted in every election since 1920, when women gained voting rights

Acts Approved by the President

Approved November 2

H.R. 2215 / Public Law 107–273
21st Century Department of Justice Appropriations Authorization Act

H.R. 4967 / Public Law 107–274
Border Commuter Student Act of 2002

H.R. 5542 / Public Law 107–275
Black Lung Consolidation of Administrative Responsibility Act

H.R. 5596 / Public Law 107–276
To amend section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate notification and return requirements for State and local party committees and candidate committees and avoid duplicate reporting by certain State and local political committees of information required to be reported and made publicly available under State law, and for other purposes

Approved November 5

H.R. 2733 / Public Law 107–277
Enterprise Integration Act of 2002

H.R. 3656 / Public Law 107–278
To amend the International Organizations Immunities Act to provide for the applicability of that Act to the European Central Bank

H.R. 3801 / Public Law 107–279
To provide for improvement of Federal education research, statistics, evaluation, information, and dissemination, and for other purposes

H.R. 2245 / Private Law 107–5
For the relief of Anisha Goveas Foti

Approved November 6

H.R. 4013 / Public Law 107–280
Rare Diseases Act of 2002

H.R. 4014 / Public Law 107–281
Rare Diseases Orphan Product Development Act of 2002

H.R. 5200 / Public Law 107–282
Clark County Conservation of Public Land and Natural Resources Act of 2002

H.R. 5308 / Public Law 107–283
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 301 South Howes Street in Fort Collins, Colorado, as the "Barney Apodaca Post Office"

H.R. 5333 / Public Law 107–284
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4 East Central Street in Worcester, Massachusetts, as the "Joseph D. Early Post Office Building"

H.R. 5336 / Public Law 107–285
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 380 Main Street in Farmingdale, New York, as the "Peter J. Ganci, Jr. Post Office Building"

H.R. 5340 / Public Law 107–286
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5805 White Oak Avenue in Encino, California, as the "Francis Dayle 'Chick' Hearn Post Office"

Approved November 7

H.R. 3253 / Public Law 107–287
Department of Veterans Affairs Emergency Preparedness Act of 2002

H.R. 4015 / Public Law 107–288
Jobs for Veterans Act

H.R. 4685 / Public Law 107–289
Accountability of Tax Dollars Act of 2002

H.R. 5205 / Public Law 107–290
To amend the District of Columbia Retirement Protection Act of 1997 to permit the Secretary of the Treasury to use estimated amounts in determining the service longevity component of the Federal benefit payment required to be paid under such Act to certain retirees of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia.

H.R. 5574 / Public Law 107–291
To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 206 South Main Street in Glennville, Georgia, as the "Michael Lee Woodcock Post Office"

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